App F IX 4]

WD2239 B490

Previous References 192 4 (nil)

File No 73-23

Serial Nos 8

Later references

Preserve

GENERAL & REVENUE SECRETARIAT

Serial Nos /

Part B for May 25,

SUBJECT

Local Self Govt Conference held in April 1923.

Recorded

8 No 6667

PUBLIC OFFICES,

Bangalore, dated the 20th May 1923.

Subs for instructions

Put 23-23-8

From

Mr. Rama Rao, Esq., B.A., B.L.,

President, Local Self Government Conference,

BANGALORE

To

A. N. BANERJI, Esq., M.A., C.S.I., C.I.E.,

Dewan of Mysore,

BANGALORE.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith for the information of Government a copy of the resolutions together with an abstract of Proceedings of the Local Self Government Conference held at Bangalore during the last week of April 1923 as directed in the marginally noted Government Orders on the subject.

G.O.No.L.5395-5457/M1.162-22-1 dated 27th January 1923 directing the holding of a Local Self Government Conference in Bangalore in the second or third week of March 1923.
G.O.No.6344-6406 dated 17th March 1923 prescribing details regarding the personnel etc., of the Local Self Government Conference and directing the holding of the Conference in the third week of April 1923.

Orders of the Government are solicited for placing the resolutions at the disposal of the Press and also for printing the Proceedings of the Conference, exclusive of the discussions, and distributing the printed copies to all local bodies and members of the Conference.

I would like to bring to your kind notice the good work done by Mr. D.C.Subbarayappa, the Secretary of the Conference and by my Personal Assistant Mr. M. Seetharamaiya, who rendered useful service to me in the preparation of notes which facilitated discussions and rendered the work of the Conference very easy

The Registrar of the General and Revenue Secretariat rendered useful help in arranging for seats etc.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Nizam Hussain Hasan
PRESIDENT.

Submitted to His Highness

I submit herewith for His Highness' gracious perusal the Proceedings of the Local Self Government Conference held in April last under the presidency of the Second Member of Council

5 JUN 1923

4

Record of Cases submitted for the Orders of His Highness the Maharaja

No. 651
5-6-23

Subject

Proceedings of the Local Self Government Conference held in April 1923

940

Order

~~KRW~~
9/6/23

Resume
The results have been worked up by the Government

632
14-6-23

Second Member). 14/6/23

3 R.S III—8]

Immediate

Routine Notes

[To be used only for notes, requisitions, etc., not intended for permanent record.]

The orders passed by the Dewan are that the several resolutions of the L&G Conference have to be worked up for the orders of Govt. The resolutions suggest the amendment of the Municipal and L&G Regulations in several respects.

Nearly XLVII resolutions have to be worked up and pondered thro' till orders are passed in respect of each resolution. It was originally proposed to constitute a separate Section for this, but only a temporary sort of one & first Dr clerk and a typist was sanctioned for the

—Should routine notes be written on small slips the notes must be copied or slips pasted on this form

6

G R.S. III—8]

Routine Notes.

[To be used only for notes, requisitions, etc., not intended for permanent record.]

L & G. Conference work
and even this staff
was disbanded with
effect from 1st June 1923
Now that the restrictions
have been received
it is a point for orders
whether the work should
be regarded as portion
of the legitimate work
of the L & G Immt sections
or a separate establishment
entertained for the purpose

K. P.
15/6/23

B—Should routine notes be written on small slips, the notes must be copied, or slips pasted on this form.

2

7

G.R.S. III—8]

Routine Notes

[To be used only for notes, requisitions, etc, not intended for permanent record]

3 Mr. K. V. Krishna Swaminathan has been placed on special duty for reviewing reports of town municipal councils etc for grant ~~[illegible]~~ and his work has been distributed among other case workers of the Board municipal Sections. The review for 21-22 has also to be taken up. If the L.S.G. conference work has to be attended to in this Branch an additional experienced first

N. B.—Should routine notes be written on small slips the notes must be copied, or slips pasted on this form

Routine Notes

[To be used only for notes, requisitions, etc, not intended for permanent record.]

Division clerk is absolutely necessary. The existing case-workers have been complaining already of overwork & submitted to the Asst Sec for orders

16/6/22

5 To facilitate efficient working up of the resolutions expeditiously, the services of a senior first Div. clerk outside the normal strength of the branch are necessary. 6 For orders

Rev Sec)

Second Member

Secretary — Should routine notes be written on small slips, the notes must be copied or slips pasted on this form

8 Impos. It is a hard and difficult work requiring exclusive attention. Do not think that a divisional clerk alone will be able to expe[illegible] work. Services of another officer are required.

7 This has been noted.

18/6

(4) This question is being separately dealt with.

Note

19/6

[illegible]

G R. S III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat

File No of 19

Serial No

Proceedings of the Local Self Government Conference held in April 1923

DEWAN'S OFFICE.
Rcd. on MAY 24 1923
Reg. No. 6313

Office of the Private Secretary to H H the Maharaja of Mysore

23 SEP 1923

Linked file to file No.433 dated 20-9-23 returned on 21-9-23.

Mysore,
22nd September 23.

NOTE—Contn sheet

LOCAL SELF GOVERNMENT CONFERENCE

Resolutions passed in the Conference

I. If the Village Panchayet Scheme is to work satisfactorily it should be introduced into all rural areas without exception, the jurisdiction of the Panchayet being confined to a single village or a group of neighbouring villages according to convenience, and wishes of the people

II. That the following services should be prescribed as the obligatory duties of Village Panchayets -

(a) Primary Education
(b) Sanitation including water supply,
(c) Communications
(d) Agriculture including Veterinary & Sericulture,
(e) Co-operation

III. That it is desirable to invest Village Panchayets with the powers of Village Courts under the Village Courts Regulation

IV That it is desirable also to give to the Village Panchayet the powers now exercised by Dharmadarsis over the Village Muzrai Institutions.

V. That the Village Panchayets should be bound to supplement by taxation to the extent necessary for the discharge of their obligatory functions, the contributions that may be made to them by the Government or by the District Board, for the performance of these duties

VI. That a Committee consisting of official and non-official gentlemen be appointed (1) to formulate

formulate a detailed scheme for the establishment of village Panchayets in accordance with Resolution No. I (2) to indicate the Agency which should exercise control over these Panchayets, (3) to suggest the extent to which and the manner in which the Panchayets should perform the obligatory duties, (4) to suggest the conditions under which Tank Panchayets may be amalgamated with ~~the~~ -- Village Panchayets, (5) to suggest what other matters of communal interest may be brought under the category of obligatory duties

VII. That the Village Improvement Committees formed under the executive orders of Government be abolished and the funds at their credit placed at the disposal of the Village Panchayets to be constituted in accordance with Resolution No. I in the respective areas for use in

~~And the Panchayet should use the funds in~~ the execution of the objects for which the amounts ~~was~~ have been collected

VIII. That it is not desirable to entrust the registration of births and deaths to Village Panchayets and that the existing arrangements for this work do continue, the Regulation on the subject being suitably amended so as to bring this work within the purview of the functions of District Boards and ~~to~~ impose upon the Patels the duty of maintaining the prescribed registers instead of appointing separate Registers for this -- purpose

IX. That the Rules under the Village Sanitation Regulation be so modified as to empower Village Panchayets to grant house-building licenses and institute prosecutions for breaches of these Rules

X. That vaccination in Municipal areas be made compulsory as a permanent measure and that the vaccination Regulation be extended also to all ~~Village~~ -- Panchayet areas

XI. That the procedure for the acquisition of land for the formation of new villages and the extension of the existing ones be simplified and the Deputy Commissioners empowered to sanction such acquisitions on their own authority subject to such limitations as the Government may prescribe

XII. That the maintenance of avenue trees on Provincial as well as District Fund roads be entrusted to the District Boards, subject to the existing rights of private persons and that the Engineering Department be requested to pay to the Board the amount they are -- spending upon the maintenance of avenue trees on Provincial roads.

XIII. That the Taluk Boards need not be abolished and that there is no necessity for Sub Division Boards

XIV. That the principle of direct election to the District Boards should be introduced and that, for the present each Taluk be represented by two members on the District Board, One elected by the general body of voters in the Taluk and the other by the members of the Taluk Board

XV. That it is not desirable to appoint non-official presidents or Vice Presidents of Taluk Boards ex Officio members of the District Board.

XVI That it is not necessary to have representatives of Municipal Councils, including City Municipal Councils, on District Boards

XVII That while no change is necessary in the franchise qualifications prescribed for elections to the Municipal Councils, the franchise qualifications prescribed for Representative Assembly elections be adopted for elections to the Taluk Boards

XVIII. That the franchise be extended to women in the case of elections to Municipal Councils and Local Boards including Village Panchayets on the basis of the same qualifications as are adopted for male voters

XIX. That as it is necessary to provide for inspection of offices of local bodies and for speedy remedy to ~~aggrkxxd~~ aggrieved parties the Deputy Commissioner of the District, in addition to the powers now vested in him, be authorised to inspect the offices of local bodies and call for the records of any case either of his own motion or on the application of an aggrieved party and, if satisfied that the order or proceedings of the Board or its exdcutive is wrong or contrary to law, submit the records of the case with his opinion to Government for such orders as they may deem fit to pass in the matter

XX. That ~~this Conference is of opinion that~~ it is necessary to appoint a Member of Council to be exclusively in charge of the Local Self Government Port folio so that he may tour frequently, inspect the offices and work of local bodies and the working of the laws and regulations and adopt suitable measures for rectifying the defects, if any, in the working of the Local Self Government Scheme

XXI. That a small Committee consisting of the Deputy Commissioner, the President, the Vice President and a few non-official members of the District Board the

the Chief Engineer for Roads and the Executive -- Engineer of the District be appointed to consider the practicability of each District Board having its own Engineering staff, with due regard to economy and efficiency taking into account the amount which the District Board can spare annually for original works and repairs, the amount of contribution now paid to the Public Works Department for establishment charges and tools and plant and the expenditure which the maintenance of a separate Engineering staff will involve and that the resolution of the District Board on the recommendations of the Committee be submitted to Government for consideration

XXII That no change in the existing practice regarding the appointment, punishment and transfer of Sanitary Inspectors is called for

XXIII That, as regards medical officers attached to Local Fund Dispensaries, their transfer if desired by the local body concerned should be given effect to, though their appointment, promotion and punishment may rest with the Senior Surgeon or the Government as the case may be

XXIV That ordinarily no official borne on the establishment of a Minor or Town Municipal Council or on the establishment of the Local Boards should be retained in the same Municipal or Local Board office for more than three years and that in no case should the period excee five years and that a list of officials in Municipal service who have completed three years' service should be sent periodically to the Deputy Commissioner of the District for effecting their transfer from one establi ment to another that as regards the officials of the Board President's office drawing a pay of Rs. 40/- upwards the list may be sent to the Government for transfer o officials from one District Board to another District

XXV That, with a view to prevent deterioration of the service for want of openings for promotion, suc of the Local Fund Head Clerks as possess the prescribe qualifications be included in the list of candidates eligible for Amildari

XXVI. That a Committee consisting of an Account Officer, representatives of Municipalities including City Municipalities, and Presidents of District Boards be appointed for the revision of the Municipal Account Code and the compilation of a Local Fund Account Code

XXVII That if it is decided by Government to entrust the disposal of local subjects to the District Boards and if a preliminary meeting of the members of the Representative Assembly under the Presidency of the Deputy Commissioner is held for the selection of such subjects, and if such subjects are forwarded to the District Boards, the following procedure may be adopted

(1) in matters in which final orders can be passe by Government only, refer the subjects to Government with the opinion of the Boards,

and (2) in matters which relate to Departments not under the control of the District Boards but which can be disposed of by the Heads of Departments concerned, refer such subjects with the opinion of the Boards to the Heads of Departments concerned,

That the same procedure be adopted in case of subjects brought up before the Board by the Members or referred to them by any other body

XXVIII. That the District and Taluk Conferences be continued under the auspices of the District Boards, and that the Government be requested to contribute a

a moiety of the cost of the Conferences, and

that the Deputy Commissioner should generally preside over the District Conference and that in respect of Taluk Conferences he may preside himself or depute some other officer to do so

XXIX That to deal with the Educational, Industrial and Agricultural problems connected with the Economic Conference the Local Bodies may have a single Committee in lieu of three separate Committees,

that the Local Boards and Municipal Regulations be suitably amended so as to empower local bodies to grant loans for the encouragement of local arts and industries, subject to such limitations and safe-guards as the Government may deem fit to impose

XXX That Governmat be requested to revive the Malnad Improvement Committees

XXXI that Minor Municipalities may be given the option of being converted into Town Municipalities or Village Panchayets

XXXII That, while the system of establishing toll-gates at the entrance to Municipalities on District Fund Roads is to be deprecated, the revenue from Municipal toll when levied should be shared between the District Boards and the Municipal Councils and that the Government should fix the share in some equitable proportion

XXXIII That as it is the duty of the State to provide facilities for the housing of the poor and t provide suitable sites for building purposes to re congestion in towns and as the Municipal Councils been performing the functions which were being for performed by the State, ~~this Conference recommends~~

~~to Government that~~ Municipalities and Local Bodies may be exempted from payment of penalty to Government for the conversion of agricultural lands for house building purposes.

XXXIV. That as the present Mohatarfa rates are low, ~~this~~ they may be suitably enhanced

XXXV. That the Municipal Regulation be suitably amended so as to give option to Municipalities to lev shop tax in lieu of profession tax

XXXVI That the levy of Pilgrim Tax is objectionabl on various grounds and should not be introduced

XXXVII. That it is not desirable to abolish the levy of Octroi duties

XXXVIII That a tax on arms and hides be levied and tha necessary provision for the same be made in the Municipal and Local Boards Regulations

XXXIX That necessary provision be made in the Municipal Regulation for the levy of surcharge duties on Excise.

XL That provision be made for the levy of a tax on goats and pigs but not on sheep

XLI That one-third of the net realizations after deducting Sanitary and other charges from Jatras held in connection with Muzrai institutions, be given to District Boards and the remaining two thirds credited to the funds of the temple concerned It further recommends that in the case of cattle shows etc , organised under the auspices of Local Bodies 1/3 of the realization after deducting all the charges may be given over to the local temple or temples as the District Board thinks fit

XLII That in order to introduce an element of elasticity and expansiveness in the revenues of the District Boards, the District Boards be empowered to levy cesses like Municipalities subject to such conditions and limitations as the Government may impose and that the Local Boards Regulation be amended accordingly

XLIII. That the District Boards be entrusted with the control of primary education and required to contribute one-third of the cost

XLIV Resolved that no uniform rule can be laid down regarding the contribution payable by the District Boards towards the cost of several services and that the question should be decided by the District Boards concerned as it arises

XLV. That the Local Boards Regulation be suitably amended so as to empower the Taluk Boards to levy education cess subject to such conditions and limitations as the Government may deem fit to impose

XLVI That the question of the establishment of village Panchayets and Municipalities in Inam Villages and Jaghirs be referred to the Committee proposed to be appointed in connection with the establishment of panchayets

XLVII That the Non-Official Presidents of City Municipalities, Town Municipalities and Minor Municipalities be elected by the general body of voters instead of by the Municipal Councillors,

that non-official Presidents of District and Taluk Boards be also elected by the general body of voter instead of by the Members of the Local Bodies

XLVII(That the Village Panchayets ~~xxx~~ be so constituted as to consist of the Yejamans or elders of the Village and if possible, the head of each family

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Proceedings of the Local Self Government Conference held on the 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th April 1923

*****

The holding of a Local Self Government Conference at Bangalore was sanctioned in the following order of Government -

Local Self-Government Conference

Directs the holding of a —— in Bangalore in March 1923

ORDER No L 5395-5457—M1 162-22-1, DATED 27TH JANUARY 1923

Five years have elapsed since the Local Self-Government Scheme came into operation and a very important change has been introduced into the functions of the Local Bodies by tacking on Economic work to them and under the Reforms Scheme further powers to deal with local subjects which are now brought before the Representative Assembly are proposed to be given to them The question of co ordinating and improving the working of Municipal Councils and Local Boards and of improving their finances and placing them on a satisfactory footing and other questions of vital importance to the Local Bodies have to be tackled with in the immediate future

2 It was at first suggested that the Local Bodies should take the initiative in the matter and convene a Conference to discuss the various questions affecting the progress and development of Local Self Government and to hold a thorough examination of the Local Self-Government Scheme The Bangalore City Municipal Council passed a resolution agreeing to hold a Conference, but they have not as yet taken any definite action in the matter

3 Government consider that the work of examining the Local Self Government Scheme and formulating proposals in keeping with the proposed Constitutional Reforms should be expedited and that orders should be passed before the Constitutional Reforms are introduced into the State They are accordingly pleased to direct that to go into all questions connected with the develpoment of Local Self Government in the State, a Conference be summoned by Government to meet in Bangalore in the 2nd or 3rd week of March 1923, and to be presided over by the Second Member of Council The Presidents of the City and Town Municipal Councils, Non-official Presidents of District Boards and Non-official Vice Presidents of Taluk Boards, the Deputy Commissioners, some selected Heads of Departments and a few other non-official gentlemen will be invited to attend the Conference

T E JEYARAMA AIYAR,
Secy to Govt, Rev Department

The personnel of the Conference was thus fixed in Government Order No 6344-6406 dated 17th March.1923.

Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore.

GENERAL AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS

G O No 6344-6406 Dated Bangalore, 17th March 1923

Local Self Government Conference.

Prescribing details regarding the *personnel* etc, of the——to be held in the third week of April 1923

Read--

G O No L 5395-5457/M1 162-22-1 dated 27th January 1923 directing the holding of a Local Self Government Conference in Bangalore in the second or third week of March 1923

ORDER No 6344-6406 DATED 17th MARCH 1923

In modification of the order read above, Government are pleased to direct that the Local Self Government Conference be held in the third week of April 1923 and that the number of officers of Government and non-official gentlemen to be invited to take part in the Conference be limited to 125 consisting of —

1 CITY MUNICIPAI COUNCILS --
Presidents
Vice Presidents

2 TOWN MUNICIPAL COUNCILS --
Non-official Presidents
-do- Vice Presidents (excepting those of Kolar, Tumkur, and Chikmagalur)

3 MINOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILS --
Non-official Vice Presidents of two Minor Municipal Councils in the Mysore District and of one such Municipal Council in each of the other Districts

4 DISTRICT BOARDS --
Presidents of the District Boards of Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur, Mysore and Hassan
Non official Vice-Presidents of District Boards

5 TALUK BOARDS --
Non official Vice Presidents of three select Taluk Boards in the Mysore District and 2 in each of the other Districts

VILLAGE PANCHAYETS --
Select representatives of 2 Village Panchayets in the Mysore District and of one in each of the other Districts

DELEGATE FROM THE SANITARY BOARD, KOLAR GOLD FIELDS

THE FOLLOWING HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS SECRETARIES TO GOVERNMENT AND DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS OF DISTRICTS -

Revenue Commissioner
Chief Secretary to Government

Revenue Secretary to Government
General Secretary to Government
Senior Surgeon and Sanitary Commissioner
Inspector General of Education
Director of Industries and Commerce
Chief Engineer for Roads and Buildings
Chief Engineer for Irrigation
Director of Agriculture
Live Stock Expert
Superintendent of Sericulture
Director of Public Health Institute
Registrar of Co-operative Societies
Conservator of Forests
Deputy Commissioners of Bangalore, Mysore, Kolar, Hassan, and Tumkur

9. SELECTED NON-OFFICIAL GENTLEMEN NOT EXCEEDING 25

2 One of the Assistant Secretaries to Government will be deputed to attend to the work of the Conference as its Secretary to whom all communications on the subject should be made

3. The date on which the Conference will be opened and the subjects that will be placed before it for discussion will be communicated to the members in due course

4 Non-official members of local bodies including Village Panchayets will be paid travelling allowances at rates admissible to them under the rules framed under the Municipal Regulation or under the Local Boards and Village Panchayets Regulation

Officers of Government invited to the Conference will draw travelling allowance as for journeys performed by them on duty

Other invitees to the Conference will draw travelling allowance at the following rates --

Journeys by rail	Double 2nd Class
Road Journeys	Four annas per mile
Daily batta	Rs 3

5 The expenses of the Conference, except as regards travelling allowance due to the Government Officers and the charges on account of printing, will be borne by the local bodies in proportion to their incomes

T E JEYARAMA AIYAR,
Secretary to Government,
Revenue Departme

To--The Deputy Commissioners of Districts
The Presidents of Bangalore, Kolar and Hassan Distri Boards
The Presidents of other District Boards
The Presidents of Bangalore and Mysore City Municipal Councils
The President, K G F Sanitary Board
The Heads of Departments
PRESS TABLE

* The following additions and alterations were made in the above list -

Non-Official Presidents of the District Boards of Bangalore, Kolar and Hassan were substituted for Presidents of the District Boards of Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur, Mysore and Hassan under item No 4

The Financial Secretary to Government, the Deputy Director of Agriculture, and the Superintendent of Civil Veterinary Department were added under item No 8

The following gentlemen were accordingly invited as delegates to the Conference -

LIST OF INVITEES

I City Municipal Councils

PRESIDENTS

Bangalore	1	Mr Ananda Rao Sirsi, B A ,LL B
Mysore	2	Dewan Bahadur Mr C Srikanteswara Aiyar, B A , B L

VICE PRESIDENTS

Bangalore.	3	Mr B Abdur Rahmon, B A
Mysore		Vacant

II Town Municipal Councils

PRESIDENTS

Kolar	4	Mr G Girimaji Rao
Tumkur	5	" K Ranga Iyengar, B A ,LL,B
Chikmagalur	6	" S Venkataramaiya, B A ,LL B

VICE PRESIDENTS

Chennapatna	7	Mr C N Ramachandra Rao
Dodballapur	8	" D Kongadiappa
Chikballapur	9	C Narayanaswami Chetty
Sidlaghatta	10	" S Hampiah
Bowringpet	11	" A Raju Mudaliar
Mulbagal	12	" Mahammed Yasin Sab
Chintamani	13	" Syed Ahamed Saheb
Sira	14	" Surappa
Maddagiri	15	" S Shama Sastry
Gubbi	16	" G Murigappa
Tiptur	17	" Nanjesha Gowda
Nanjangud	18	" K Venkatasamaiya, B A B L
Seringapatam	19	" Veene Rangaswami Iyengar
Chamarajanagar	20	" T Venkatasamaiya
Hassan	21	" Mahamed Raza
Holenarasipur	22	" B Anantharama Iyengar
Shimoga	23	" U Subbaraya Naik
Shikaripur	24	" S Srinivasa Dikshit
Sagar	25	" A Narasimha Iyengar
Birur	26	" K T Satyanarayana Setty
Tarikere	27	" A Venkataramaiya
Chitaldrug	28	" Jeevanna Rao
Davangere	29	T M Omkarappa
Harihar	30	H M Chennabasavaiya

III Minor Municipal Councils

Bangalore Dist	31	Mr Abdul Hamid Khan Sarjapur
Kolar "	32	" L Vema Reddy Malur
Tumkur "	33	D Seetharamiah Turuvekere
Mysore	34	M N Nanjendraiya Mandya
	35	" H Krishna Sastry Krishnarajpet
Hassan "	36	" Venkataramaiya Chennarayapatna
Shimoga	37	Rustum Ali Khan Honnali
Kadur "	38	B Rangarajaiya Mudgere
Chitaldrug "	39	N Ananda Thirtha Rao, Chellakere

IV District Boards

PRESIDENTS

Bangalore		Mr B Abdur Rahmon (comes under No 1)
Kolar	40	C B Gopala Rao
Hassan	41	" N S Nanjundaiya

VICE PRESIDENTS

Bangalore	42	Mr B Usman Khan
Kolar	43	D Venkatesaiya B A B I
Tumkur	44	H Venkatramaiya B A B I
Mysore		Vacant
Hassan	45	" H V Rangaswami B A II B
Shimoga	46	" C Subba Rao, B A ,B L

Kadur	47	Mr C Srinivasa Rao
Chitaldrug	48	" M Ananthaiya Setty

V Taluk Boards

VICE PRESIDENTS

Bangalore	49	Mr B Srinivasa Iyengar, Anekal
	50	" B M. Munisamappa, Bangalore
Kolar	51	' H Srinivasa Rao, Malur
	52	" Krishnamurthi Achar, Mulbagal
Tumkur	53	' Singri Nanjappa, Tiptur
	54	Sanjivappa of Sompur, Koratagere
Mysore	55	' T Krishna Rao Mysore
	56	" H V Rangaswamy Iyengar, Heggaddevankote.
	57	" K N Subbaiya Chetty, Malavalli
Hassan	58	" B C Anantharamaiengar, Chennarayapatna
	59	" Bellur Nanje Gowda, Manjarabad,
Shimoga	60	' Nadig Madhava Rao, Kumsi
	61	" Srinivasa Udupa, Nagar
Kadur	62	" Medkere Naik, Tarikere
	63	" H Hutcha Rao, Koppa
Chitaldrug	64	" Chinnobiah, Chitaldrug
	65	" Gurusiddappa Basappa, Davangere

VI Village Panchayets

Bangalore	66	Mr S Dasappa, Sondekoppa, Nelamangala Taluk.
Kolar	67	" Ramegowda, Kamasandra, Bowringpet Taluk.
Tumkur	68	" Surynarayana Rao Kolala, Tumkur Taluk.
Mysore	69	" Biram Khan Sab, Kiragaval Malavalli Taluk
	70	" B Ramanna Kikkeri, Krishnarajpet Taluk
Hassan	71	' G Selva Pillai, M A ,LL B Gorur, Hassan Tk
Shimoga	72	Nagappa Bair, Tallur Panchayet, Thirthahalli Tk
Kadur	73	' Mande Patel Manje Gowda, Banakal Panchayet
Chitaldrug	74	' Sowcar Surappa, Maradihalli, Hiriyur Taluk

VII. Delegate from the Sanitary Board.

Kolar Gold Fields	75	Mr J D O Donnell

VIII Heads of Departments Etc

Revenue Commissioner	76	Mr K Chandy, B A
Chief Secretary to Government	77	" K Matthan, B A
Financial Secretary to Government	78	' Rajakarya Prasakta Mr M N. Krishna Rao, B A
Revenue Secretary to Government	79	T E Jayaram Iyer B A ,B L
General Secretary to Government	80	' G Aravamudu Iyengar, B A, B L
Senior Surgeon and Sanitary Commissioner	81	" H B Mylvaganam F R C S
Inspector-Genesal of Education	82	' C S Balasundaram Iyer, B A
Director of Industries and Commerce	83	' P G D'Souza, B A ,B L
Chief Engineer for roads and buildings	84	' H D Rice, M I C E
Chief Engineer for Irrigation	85	' J Bhore A M I C E ,Etc
Director of Agriculture (Acting)	86	' H V Krishnaiya, B A ,F C S
Deputy Director of Agriculture	87	" A K Yegna Narayana Iyer, M A
Superintendent, Civil Veterinary Department	88	Major J W Simpson
Live Stock Expert	89	" W Davison, B S A
Superintendent of Sericulture	90	" N Rama Rao, B A ,B I
Director Public Health Institute	91	' A K Pani, I M & S ,D P H ,Etc
Registrar of Co-operative Societies	92	" K H Ramiah, B A ,Bar-at-Law
Conservator of Forests	93	B V Rama Iyengar, B A
Deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District	94	" B Venkoba Rao, B A

Kolar Dt	Deputy Commissioner	95	Mr S Hiriannaiya, M A, B L
Hassan	do	96	" K Mylar Rao, B A, B L
Mysore	do	97	" B Ramaswamaiya, B A, B L
Tumkur	do	98	" Md Zahiruddin Mecci, B A

IX Non-Official Gentlemen.

99 Dewan Bahadur Mr K P Puttanna Chetty, C I E
100 Mr D V Gundappa.
101 " B K Garudachar
102 ' Karnick Krishnamurthi Rao
103 " Mahammed Abbas Khan
104 " P M Basappa
105 " P Murugesam Pillai
106 Rao Saheb Mr H Chennaiya
107 Mr R Gopalasami Iyer
108 " S Srikantaiya, B A, B L
109 " Tubagere Nanjappa
110 ' B V Ramaswamy Chetty, B A
111 " Abdul Khuddus
112 ' C Narasimhaya, B A, B L
113 ' Amble Anniah Pandit
114 ' Mahammed Sait
115 B Narasinga Rao
116 " Devoji Rao
117 ' T Srinivasachar
118 " M G Shama Rao
119 ' S Venkatesaiya, B A, B L
120 " Malali Venkataramaiya
121 " S R Balakrishna Rao, B A, B L
122 " H G Basavappa
123 " C Vasudeva Rao
124 " Jade Subba Rao
125 ' C Chennakesavaiya

Subsequently, the following gentlemen were elected as additional Members -

1 Mr Purushottama Ananda Giri Gosai
2. " H Rangaswamy Iyengar.
3. " E. Krishnappa
4. " H. Narayana Rao
5. " Khaja Mahammed
6. " Lakshmikanta Bhatta
7. " A. Natesa Mudaliar.
8. " G. H Krumbiegel
9. " C. Hayavadana Rao, B.A , B L ,
10 " C. Krishna Rao, B A , B L ,

In addition to the above, the following officers of Government and leading citizens of Bangalore including the Members of the City Municipal Council of Bangalore and the local Members of the District Board of Bangalore were invited to be present on the opening day -

1 Sir M Visvesvaraya

2. Rajamantra Pravina Dewan Bahadur
Mr. P Raghavendra Rao, B. A., B L ,

3. " K. R Srinivasa Iyengar, M A.,

4. " D. K Darasha

5. " D. Srinivasa Iyengar, B A ,

6. " T. Satyaraj Chetty, B A.,

7 Rajadharma Pravina Mr. K S Chandrasekhara Aiyar, B A., B L ,

8. Mr. R B Plumer

9. " B Subbanna

10 " B Nagappa, Bat-at-Law ,

11. " K Sankaranarayana Rao, M A , B L.,

12. " V R Thyagaraja Aiyar, M A ,

13. " R. Ranga Rao, B A , B L ,

14 " A Subrahmanya Iyer, B A ,

15 " G. B. Heblikar, B A , LL B ,

16 " S. G Sastry, B A , etc ,

17. " B Jayaram

18. " D B Ramachandra Mudaliar

19 " B. Puttaiah, B A

20 " Lt Col B Chamaraj Urs

21 Mr P F Bowring

22. " K V Anantaraman, B A ,

23 Rao Bahadur Mr P Shama Rao, M A

24 Rajamantra Pravina Rao Bahadur
Mr T V Aramugum Mudaliar L B C M

25 " M Chengiah Setty B A ,

26 Rajakaryaprasakta Rao Bahadur
Mr D Shama Rao

27 " T Pasamasivaiya, B A

28 " M G Rama Rao, B A

29. " K Srinivasa Rao

30 " S Cadambi B A L C E ,

31 Rajasabhabhushana Rev Father A M Tabar M A M B E

32 Mr B N Vijayadeva, M A Bar-at-Law

33. Mr. G. Paramasivaiya, B.A , B L ,
34. " M Ramachandra Rao, B A , B L ,
35. " C V. Narasimha Iyengar, B A , B L ,
36. " B Chinnasami Chetty
37. " B. V. Krishna Iyengar
38. " W. H. Hanumanthappa
39. " M. Ramachandra Rao Sindhe
40. " Mykala Mallaiah
41 " D. Adeppa
42. " J E Narasinga Rao
43. " V. S Tiruvengadasami Mudaliar
44. " H Krishnappa
45. " H V. Chandrasekharaiya, B A., B L.,
46 " M Raghavendra Rao
47. " P Subbarama Setty
48. " J R Issac, B A , M B E ,
49. " S Venkataranga Iyengar
50. " S Venkatarama Iyer
51. Rev W H Thorp, B A.,
52. Mr. S Venkatachalla Iyengar, B.A., B.L ,
53. " G Siddaveerappa
54. " Yele Channappa
55 " Yejaman Lasappa
56 " K Subbaraya Chetty
57 " Syed Nasaruddin Mahammed Razvi
58 " S K Narasimhaiya
59 Rao Saheb Mr Venkatasami Naidu
60 Mr V Ponnaiah, B A ,
61. " P Sankariah Setty
62 " B T Kesava Iyengar B A

The following was the agenda of subjects proposed for discussion at the Conference -

List of subjects for discussion at the Local Self Government Conference to be held at Bangalore in April 1923

I CONTROL AND SUPERVISION

Necessity for proper co-ordination of work under the Local self Government Scheme

(a) Appointment of a Board of Local Self Government with the Member of Council in charge of Local Self Government as Pesident,

(b) Appointment of a separate Commissioner of Local Self Government

II CONSTITUTION

(a) Revision of the maxima and minima now fixed for the strength of District Boards, Taluk Boards and Village Panchayets

(b) Principle of direct election to District Boards to be introduced in place of indirect representation through Taluk Boards

(c) Extension of franchise to women

(d) Whether the representation of Municipalities in District Boards is necessary

(e) Modification of franchise qualifications for the various Boards

(f) Relation of District Boards to Municipalities (City Town and Minor)

(g) Jurisdiction of Taluk Boards with reference to Taluk and Sub Division areas

(h) Constitution of separate Sub Division Boards

III ENLARGEMENT OF THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF LOCAL BODIES

1 Enlargement of powers of sanction of original civil works and repairs

2 Drinking water wells How to control expenditure and how to secure speedy completion of works

3 Power to pass resolutions on questions connected with the general administration of the District under Section 12 of the Local Boards Regulation and power to dispose of Local Subjects which were being brought up for discussion till now before the Representative Assembly

4 Relation of Taluk and District Conferences with District and Taluk Boards

5 Local Boards and Economic Development Work with special reference to encouragement of industries by loans or otherwise

6 Relation of local bodies to Malnad Improvement Committees and the abolition of the latter

7 Control of primary education by local bodies and enactment of a separate Education Act

8 Education Cess and amending the Regulation on the subject

IV STAFF

(a) Recruitment and prospects of Local Fund and Municipal Establishments and their correlation with the Revenue and other services

(b) Relationship of local administration with the Medical and Sanitary services

(c) Entertainment of a separate Engineering Establishment for local bodies

V FINANCE

Revenue

(a) Improvement of the resources of Local Boards and Municipalities

i Mohatarfa
ii Profession tax
iii Pilgrim tax
iv Examination of the system of levy of octroi duties
v Terminal tax
vi Levy of a tax upon arms, hides, etc
vii Surcharge duties in respect of excise
viii Levy of a tax upon cattle brought for sale at the Jatras
ix Sheep tax
x Division of Jatra revenues between District Boards and the Muzrai Department
xi Special cesses

(b) Arrangements necessary for the collection of revenue

Expenditure

i Contributions towards the cost of primary education
ii Contributions by local bodies for services such as Medical, Sanitary Veterinary and Agriculture and Central audit

VI VILLAGE PANCHAYETS

i Revision of the constitution of Village Panchayets and their relations to Village Improvement Committees
ii Suggestions for the improvement of the working of Village Panchayets
(a) Village Panchayets to be invested with power to dispose of civil suits of small value
(b) Amalgamation of Taluk Panchayets with Village Panchayets
iii Proper registration of births and deaths and amendment of the Regulation for the registration of vital statistics
iv Revision of Sanitation rules as applicable to villages and Minor Municipalities
v Compulsory vaccination
vi Rules for the laying out of new villages or extending existing villages
vii Maintenance of avenue trees

VII MUNICIPALITIES

1 Working of the Scheme of Minor Municipalities and converting them into Town Municipalities or Village Panchayets
2 Rules for town Planning operations
3 Principles for the levy of tolls and distribution of toll revenue among Municipalities and Local Boards
4 Exemption of Municipalities from payment of penalty to Government for agricultural lands taken up for house building purposes

VIII GENERAL

Relation of Deputy Commissioners, Sub Division Assistant Commissioners and Amildars with the administration of Local Boards and Municipalities

IX Supplemental Subjects

1. Establishment of Village Panchayets and Municipalities in Inam Villages and Jaghirs

2. Election of Presidents of Municipal Councils by plebiscite instead of by Municipal Councils

3. Provision in the Municipal Regulation for the beautification of cities and towns

4 Amending the Municipal Regulation for assuming control over the construction of buildings and setting apart blocks for residential quarters

5 Municipal trading

Notes on all the above subjects were prepared by the Special Officer on duty both in English and Kannada and circulated previously to all the Members to facilitate discussion

In addition to the subjects referred to above, the following 4 out of the 15 subjects proposed by Mr Karnick Krishnamurthy Rao of Bangalore were also accepted for inclusion in the agenda -

1 Re-election to be ordered in the case of irregularities

2 President of District Board to be the President of Taluk Boards and Municipalities

3 Reduction in the rates of Travelling Allowance admissible to Local Board Members Presidents and Vice Presidents

4 Mohalla Committees in Town and City Municipal Councils

To facilitate discussion,

Notes on all the above subjects had been prepared both in English and Kannada (copies enclosed) and circulated previously to the Members ~~to enable them~~ to ~~take an intelligent part in the discussions~~

The proceedings of the Conference began precisely at 12 Noon on the 24th April 1923 in the Daly Memorial Hall and Mr. A. R. Banerji, M.A., C S I , C I E Dewan of Mysore opened the Conference with the following remarks -

D E W A N ' S O P E N I N G R E M A R K S

Gentlemen,-- It gives me great pleasure to be esent here this afternoon and to perform the pleasing function of opening the second Local Self Government Conference in the State As you may be aware, it was eight years ago that the first gathering of the representatives of the Municipalities and local bodies was organised by the City Municipal Council, Mysore, under the distinguished patronage of His Highness the Yuvaraja who graciously opened the Conference on the 28th June of that year It was presided over by Rajasabhabhushana Dewan Bahadur K P Puttanna Chetty, C I E the then Honorary President of the Bangalore City Municipality whose presence here to-day is a source of immense satisfaction to us He combines in himself in a unique manner the long experience of a bureaucratic official who, in the olden days controlled local institutions as well as the unfettered experience of a public spirited non-official worker in the large field of civic and social progress I am sure his presence at this Conference will be of great help to you in your deliberations

In this connection, I cannot omit to refer to the

the sad loss that the cause of local Self-Government in Mysore has sustained by the untimely death of Mr. Subbiah, the first non-official President of the Bangalore District Board, in fact the first non-official worker who secured popular confidence and election to that high and dignified office

When the last Local Self-Government Conference was held, the Government had before them two important reports submitted by the Special Committees appointed—one on the subject of general re-organization and development, and the other on the subject of local finance After over two years' discussion, the Mysore Local Self-Government scheme was sanctioned in November 1916, and both the local bodies as well as the Municipalities are working under the two amended Regulations subsequently passed consolidating the law on the subject as then liberalized and revised The main lines of advance then adopted were the strengthening of the elective element in Municipal and Local Boards, enlargement of their powers and functions, increasing their financial resources and rendering the local bodies real and responsible agents in the administration of their own local affairs Two important sources of revenue Local Funds General and Mohatarfa were assigned to the District Boards thereby adding over 50 per cent to their normal resources It may be within your recollection that as Member in charge of the Local Self Government portfolio I had the honour of putting these important measures through the Legislative Council during the summer -- session of 1917 I have watched with great interest the progress of the scheme during the past six years and I have also had the opportunity of getting into closer touch with both Municipalities and District Boards during my recent tours in the Districts I may, therefore claim with your indulgence, some knowledge of the local conditions and your difficulties and also the privilege of indicating to you the short-comings as your well-

well-wisher and friend

It is needless for me to point out that this is the most opportune moment for holding another Conference, as we stand to-day on the threshold of important constitutional developments In my announcement at the last Dasara Session of the Representatifs Assembly, I indicated how under the altered constitutional arrangements, it is contemplated that the discussion of local subjects should be relegated to the District Boards who will thus be regarded as the primary guardians of local interests within their jurisdiction. The economic developments within their respective areas have already been made an obligatory function of local boards and Municipalities, and the necessary amendments have also been made in the Regulations Under Section 12 of the Local Boards Regulation, the District and Taluk Boards have been given the statutory power to record resolutions on matters of public interest for the consideration of Government These enlarged functions have not been exercised to any appreciable degree till now, but the proposed transference of discussion of local subject introduces a very important change of policy, and I am sure that you will carefully go into the matter and be able to suggest subsidiary arrangements that may be necessary to make the District Boards real District Councils in the truest sense of the term The reorganization of the District and Taluk Conferences ~~with~~ and the Co-relation of these conferences with the Taluk and District Boards are also matters of an allied nature requiring very careful examination You have before you a very formidable bill of fare and you will not expect me to refer to all the items or to make any very elaborate survey of the past and indicate at le[illegible] the problems of the future This agreeable task will fall on the worthy shoulders of my learned colleague Mr. Mir Humza Hussain, Second Member of Council, who will preside over your delibarations, and I am sure

sure that with his experience and wide knowledge of the several problems relating to the scheme, he will be able to guide your discussions with his usual ability and practical commonsense

At the time when the present Local Self Government Scheme was inaugurated, Government had to make the admission that the Taluk Boards and Unions had exerised only consultative functions and served no useful purpose in the rural board administration of the State The District Committees were entirely official. In fact, local bodies were unimportant sub divisions of Departments of Government under the control of local officers who did not devote much time to such work As regards the Municipalities also, a majority of them were not established under the Statute and were left to get on as best as they could, even the representative principle was lacking in the constitution of those which were established under the Municipal Regulation of 1006

The great Rangachariu in his address to the Representative Assembly, soon after the Rendition, stated, "real education for Self-Government has only to be acquired by the practical exercise of representative functions and responsibilities", and he even went further by laying down that it will be proper if all the members of the Boards are elected by the people Sir A Seshadri Iyer in his famous minute, dated 23rd February, 1892, indicated the principle that advance in the art of administration of local affairs can only be step by step He said, as local bodies become more and more fit, powers of control and check over them which were then necessarily reserved in the hands of the District Officers will be gradually relaxed or eventually transferred to the bodies themselves This dictum was, however, not allowed in practice The

The Regulation 1904 that followed was considered by the Committee of 1914 to be too complex and still retained considerable amount of official control At that time even the Dewan had in his Dasara Address summed up the situation by saying that the progress had not been satisfactory and that the apathy displayed by the local bodies was attributable chiefly to the deficiency in the elected popular element and to the want of reasonable powers of control over their own funds. Now, we have to see, as Mysore Government did see in the year 1916 with reference to the legislation of 1902 and 1906, how far the consolidated and the amended regulations of 1918 have served the purpose which His Highness' Government had in view to liberalise Local Self-Government in the State

With the experience of the past few years, I think, I am competent to state that the administration of local affairs by the Municipal Councils and Local Bodies has on the whole been satisfactory It shows a substantial advance on the conditions prevailing a decade ago There are at present 8 District Boards, 77 Taluk Boards, and 833 Village Panchayets, all of them constituted under the Local Boards and Village Panchayets' Regulation There is also, in addition, the Sanitary Board of the Kolar Gold Fields, which although constituted under the Mines Regulations, performs in respect of that area almost all the functions of the District Board The three District Boards of Bangalore, Kolar and Hassan have non-official Presidents and the Bangalore District Board has been given the right of electing its own President Seven District Boards have non-official Vice Presidents, and not less than two-thirds of the Members of the Boards are elected Sixty-five out of 77 Taluk Boards have non-official Vice Presidents The proportion of elected members of those Taluk Boards is one half As regards Municipalities, there are at

at present 2 City Municipalities, 29 Town Municipalities and 71 Minor Municipalities. Four Town Municipalities have been given the right of electing their own non-official Presidents and 85 Municipalities have non-official Vice Presidents

Turning now to the Financial position of the Local Bodies, it will be found from the public reports that nearly 50% increased in the local resources of the Boards have been effected by the assignment to them of the Local Funds General and the Mohatarfa by Government The income of Local Boards during 1912-13 was Rs. Rs 9,00,972 and during 1921-22, it had risen to Rs 13,64,000 The income of the Municipalities has also increased from Rs 9,85,000 in 1912 to Rs 25 lakhs in 1921-22 The total income of all the Local Self-Government institutions in the State was over Rs 42½ lakhs last year, and this large sum indicates the scope that Local Self-Government institutions now have for the fulfilment of their statutory obligations and the management of their own local affairs

There is, however, another side to the picture If I present that side to you, I hope, you will not take it amiss, for I have no desire to disparage the work already done or to discount the merit of the disinterested work that has been in evidence everywhere during the past few years. While there has been a decentralization of initiative and removal of control by Government so far as Local Self Government is concerned, and also very substantial increase in their resources, I regret to have to say that the additional duties and functions contemplated by the 1916 scheme have not been attended to in the same proportion The Taluk Boards and the Union Panchayets have not got into full working order, with the result that the Panchayets are, for the most part unpopular amongst the people and representations are very frequently coming up to Government for the abolition

The District Board have not taken advantage of the privilege of passing resolutions in matters of general interest, and as regards economic work also, their activities have been, to some extent, hampered owing to various causes Although the Local Boards have sanctioned additional expenditure under some of their normal services, very little has been done to take over the enlarged functions, and in fact, nothing has yet been accomplished in respect of the obligations imposed upon Local Bodies for the development of Primary Education. At present, the contribution from local resources towards the total expenditure of Rs 17½ lakhs on Primary Education in the State is as follows -

Rs	62,000	from Municipalities,
Rs	2,75,000	from Village School Fund, and
Rs	1,15,000	from Education Cess levied from the three Districts of Bangalore, Chitaldrug and Hassan

It is necessary at the present moment, having regard to the great cry from the people in rural parts for more elementary schools, to realize the paramount -- necessity of making adequate provision for a widely extended scheme of primary Education for the people and this cannot be achieved without the fullest co-operation on the part of the local bodies and Municipalities throughout the State in the matter of finance. The scheme laid down in the Education Memorandum has not yet matured and it is extremely probable that that scheme will have to be revised, owing to the fact that the local resources counted upon are not forthcoming Whether the Government desire to go back to the Village Aided system under a scheme of enhanced grants and greater security for the teachers or adhere to the scheme of conversion of aided schools into Government schools, it is evident that an additional sum of nearly Rs 10 lakhs for Primary Education alone will have to be found before the State can have Village Elementary Schools of an adequate number representing a reasonable ratio to the total population

With a view to indicate the general improvement in the financial position of District Boards, I might give you some figures The District Boards of Mysore, Bangalore, Kolar, Tumkur and Chitaldrug put together have a normal excess in the annual income over the expenditure of nearly Rs. 2 lakhs per annum, while the Mohatarfa revenue collected in these districts and assigned to the Boards amount to Rs. 1,78,250 The financial condition of the Kadur and Shimoga districts Boards is not satisfactory as their normal expenditure exceeds the normal income The balance at the credit of District Boards, except the Kolar District Board, at the end of 1921-22 was Rs. 35½ lakhs which, of course included Rs. 12 lakhs to the credit of the Railway Cess This balance includes the accumulated surplus under Local Fund General and Mohatarfa that were transferred to the District Boards on the 30th June 1917

As already stated, the contribution towards Primary Education from the Boards is practically nominal, the contribution towards Medical Relief and Veterinary Dispensaries is also not adequate

You have to decide at this Conference what proportion of expenditure for Primary Education, Medical Relief, Veterinary services, &c., Should be met from local resources taking into account all the available resources of these bodies both Municipal and Local, under the existing system You have also to go into the question as to how far it may be necessary to augment your resources by the levy of additional cesses or whether separate cesses for separate purposes should be levied or whether the Land Revenue Cess alone may be increased to 2 annas as was once proposed in the previous discussions. It is necessary for me to point out that by the transfer of Local Funds General and Mohatarfa,

Government made a two-fold sacrifice, for they not only handed over a handsome surplus as well as a recurring income of Rs. 4,32,000 per annum, but also they took upon themselves to meet the charges that were till such transfer, being debited to these funds. But applications for Government contributions towards expenditure in respect of special schemes of improvements will continue to come to Government irrespective of the large balances that lie unused at the credit of the local bodies in the treasuries or in investments and in the State Budget too, lump-sum provisions are made for Village Improvement, Town Planning and Sanitary Improvements etc., which should equitably be met from your own resources Government have promised half contribution in respect of water supply schemes, the total cost of which will normally be beyond the means of local resources. You will, thus, observe that you still depend very largely on Government subventions and doles which however, are not regulated at present by any fixed principle.

I wish to bring to your notice one other important matter, and that is, the desirability of co-ordinating the work, giving advice and exercising proper supervision over expenditure, in respect of the administration of all local bodies The idea of establishing a Central Board for the purpose has been discussed profiously and given up The proposal was mooted in British India as far back as 1882, and I do not wish to take much of your time by referring to the discussions that have taken place without any definite conclusions being reached on the subject You may be aware that the Montague-Chelmsford Report did not approve of the idea The difficulty lies, in the fact that by establishing such a Board there may be a tendency towards too much official interference from the Central Government, local conditions may be ignored and a stereo-typed form of

form of local administration may be set up to the prejudice of local interests Perhaps an annual conference of the nature that you are holding now may be useful, or perhaps, a Standing Committee of the Representative Assembly and the Legislative Council may be constituted to consider problems arising and to advise Government as to the measures necessary I am sure you will give your careful consideration to this difficult question and favour Government with your views in the matter

In conclusion, gentlemen, let me hope that this Conference will give a powerful impetus to the development of Local Self-Government in Mysore. Times are changing and the administration of all local affairs must, under the altered conditions of Government as well as the awakening amongst the masses, be gradually transferred to local organisations The constitutions of both the municipalities and Local Bodies have to be suited to the needs of the times and adapted to the requirements of the people and whatever policy is ~~formed~~ framed , it must naturally be framed on an elastic basis Success and efficiency in the administration of local affairs cannot be attained all at once Local authorities must be allowed to make experiments and even to make mistakes A proper sense of responsibility has to be encouraged and the system should attract the best men available for taking part in local administration The Mysore Government have already established a liberal system of Local Self-Government , and are not discouraged by the results so far achieved In fact they are prepared to go further and give additional scope and privileges I made a special point of this in my reply to the Kolar Municipal Address last August I said -- " we want to delegate powers to non-official friends, we want to take away all the administrative control and all the management of local affairs from

from the hands of Amildars, Sub Division Officers and Deputy Commissioners" I also added "But at the same time our non-official friends have to be bold and need not be nervous about the matter of increasing municipal resources"

The two city municipalities have a grave responsibility in this respect for they get the largest assistance from Government in regard to water supply, lighting and improvement schemes, and have to show the example of civic responsibility that may be emulated by their less fortunate coadjutors So long as the custodians of local interest who are really the representatives of the people realise that privileges also entail obligations, we need have no fear as to the future success, and the ultimate vindication of the progressive and enlightened policy which has been hitherto pursued and which in a larger measures is intended to be continued in future by the Government of His Highness the Maharaja

I have now much pleasure in calling upon your President to deliver his Address

The following Presidential Address was then delivered by Mr Mir Humza Hussain B.A., B. L., Second Member of Council

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Local Self-Government Conference, 1923

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

BY MIR HAMZA HUSEIN, ESQ., B.A., B.L.,
SECOND MEMBER OF COUNCIL

Local Self-Government Conference.

24th April 1923

GENTLEMEN,

Introductory Remarks.

THROUGH the kindness and courtesy of the Dewan Saheb, the honour has fallen upon me of presiding ove this Conference and addressing you on this occasion The problems of Local Self Government are of absorbing interest and have been before the public eye ever since the awakening of the political consciousness of the people, as administration of one's own affairs affords a training ground for 'political and popular education' and for the exercise of the higher duties of citizenship Ever since the resolution of Lord Mayo s Government in 1870, which contained the germs of Local Self Government, Commissions and Conferences have been held and as a result of their deliberations instalments of reforms have been given to make the Local Self Government real and effective The subject has assumed additional weight and importance on account of the introduction of Reforms in British India 'It is, say the authors of the Report on the Indian Constitutional Reforms, 'by taking part in the management of local affairs that aptitude for handling the problems of Government will most readily be acquired' They add further that, 'it is of the utmost importance to the constitutional progress of the country that every effort should be made in local bodies to extend the franchise, to arouse interest in elections and to develop local Committees so that education in citizenship may as far as

possible be extended and everywhere begun in a practical manner' "One of the most important duties," says Sir M Visvesvaraya in his book, 'Reconstructing India' "which the reconstituted Government in each province will be called upon to perform will be to survey the field of local activities, study foreign experiences and pass a measure of Self-Government suited to the peculiar condition of the province" These words seem to have been written with a prophetic vision of the future and we see now greater activity and interest displayed everywhere in British India for the improvement and development of Local Self-Government Several Conferences, official and non official, are being held and as a result of their deliberations several legislative measures have been introduced into the Legislative Councils and some of them have been passed into law We in Mysore are on the threshold of the momentous Reforms which have been announced by the Dewan Saheb under the command of our beloved Sovereign and it is but meet and right that we should assemble now in a Conference, take a retrospect of the past, find out the defects and drawbacks in the constitution and working of the local bodies, which have hampered our progress and devise suitable measures to make the local bodies a living force for the betterment of our social and economic conditions in the new Constitutional Development of the country

It is not necessary for me to go into the history of the Local Self Government in Mysore That task has been already performed by abler hands than mine, by our Dewan Saheb in the exhaustive and admirable speech he delivered while introducing the present Local Boards and Village Panchayets Regulation in the Legislative Council in 1917, and by our revered and respected citizen Dewan Bahadur Mr K P Puttanna Chetty, C I E, in the address which he delivered in the first Local Self-Government Conference which was held in Mysore in 1915 Suffice

say, that by reason of the historical accident of
re having enjoyed the benefits of British Rule
early half a century the Local Self Government
tutions as they existed in British India were
time to time transplanted into our State with
or no modifications We were therefore de-
ed of the opportunity of developing our Scheme
ocal Self Government on independent lines suited
the genius of our people and in consonance with
r past traditions

In Mysore, as in British India, the Village Panchayet and the Town Guild have played an important part in regulating the affairs of the people in rural and urban areas The former still survives though it has been in the process of decay on account of the growth of individualiam, the result of the present system of education and the operation of the raiyatwari system, and the latter exists but in name in the person of *Yejman* and *Setty* in the big Cities of Bangalore and Mysore and other trading centres Referring to the Indian Village Communities, Sir Charles Metcalfe said—

"They seem to last when nothing else lasts Dynasty after dynasty tumbles down, revolution succeeds revolution, Hindu, Pathan, Moghal, Mahratta, Sikh, English are all masters in turn but the Village Community remains the same"

The Kotwali system of the Moghal days existed the Cities of Bangalore and Mysore till the early enties when it was totally abolished In the tural and evolutionary progress of things, these institutions should have been developed and expanded according to the spirit and needs of the times but instead of that we started with Committees for towns and districts—institutions unknown to the ople and strange to the polity of India and it took time for the people to accustom themselves to

the working of these bodies and adapt them to their social and economic conditions No wonder then that they were described from time to time as moribund institutions possessing no capacity or power for good These Committees have been replaced by Municipal Councils and Local Boards The former have now a settled type of constitution, but the latter are still in the process of evolution As regards these bodies the authors of the Report on Constitutional Development in Mysore remark, "Our local bodies are the paralytic lower limbs of the administration That is the imminent risk (as everwhere else in India), that weakness in the lumbar region, and we must beware lest by throwing an Atlas's load of State responsibilities on drooping shoulders we break the spine!"

As remarked by a writer of eminence, Local Self-Government as administered in British India is an exotic institution but as a poet says—'past cannot be recalled and done undo' and we will have to adopt the present institutions as the basis of our future development approximating them to the traditional institutions of the country and impregnating them with the modern spirit as far as possible

Municipalities.

Now dealing first with the Municipal Councils, they are divided into three classes—the City, the Town and the Minor Municipal Councils The basis for this classification is the population of the area, *viz*, a population of 2,000 and above for a Minor Municipal Council and 5,000 and above for a Town Municipal Council, the Cities of Bangalore and Mysore being declared as City Municipal Councils under the Regulation itself Why this standard of population was adopted is not clear from the Regulation, nor from the rules framed thereunder It seems to me that the true principle for the conversion of a rural area into a Municipality should be its capacity to bear the civic burden. It must at least be able to

perform the most essential of its obligatory functions satisfactorily There are in all 102 Municipalities in the State, of which 71 are Minor Municipal Councils The income of the latter is very poor and they are not able to employ a separate Sanitary staff nor even a separate Vaccinator or Midwife for the Municipal area The system of having a joint Sanitary staff with the Taluk Board has not worked well on account of dual control It is for you to consider whether these Minor Municipal Councils should not be disestablished No doubt some of the Taluk Headquarters will be deprived of the dignified appellation of Municipalities, but these areas are essentially rural in their nature and organization and they are at a disadvantage now since they have to contribute heavily for some of the obligatory services, leaving very little for expenditure on works of public utility Moreover, it has been proposed under the Scheme submitted by the Constitutional Reforms Committee to disenfranchise them for representation in the Representative Assembly and it is a matter for consideration whether there should exist two classes of municipal areas, one superior enjoying the franchise and the other inferior deprived of this valuable privilege

City Municipal Councils.

Our City Municipalities are as efficient as they can be and can compare favourably with any Municipal City in British India But their present condition is due largely to the bounty of the Government They are not able to bear the full cost of maintenance of water supply and they have just agreed to bear a small share of the cost of primary education which is one of their obligatory functions They do not contribute anything towards the maintenance of their premier hospitals and maternities and have done little or nothing towards economic development or improving the social amenities of life The incidence of taxation in the City of Bangalore is Rs 4 1-3 and that in the City of Mysore Rs. 2-7-6 per head,

Compared with other cities in British India the incidence is light and the Government will be justified in calling upon the Councils to bear a greater share of the expenditure as regards the necessary services But opinion may not and cannot be uniform as regards the capacity of a Municipal Council to bear further burdens and a difference of opinion between the Government and the Municipal Councils is likely to arise on such occasions There should be a definite standard laid down as to how far the citizens can tax themselves and this should be fixed in proportion to the average income of the citizens Any expenditure over and above this ought to be borne by the State If any such principle is adopted, the conflict between the Government and the Municipal Councils, which is sure to occur as the expenditure of the Municipalities increases and demand is made for Government subventions, will be avoided

Improvement of Municipal Finance.

Some suggestions have been made in the notes placed in your hands for improving the finances of the Municipalities and one of these is the substitution of the terminal tax for octroi duties

The Conference of 1915 adopted a resolution to that effect but the Government left the matter to the decision of the Municipal Councils themselves. But no effect has been given to this order by any of the Municipalities The subject has been fully discussed by Dewan Bahadur Mr K P Puttanna Chetty in his Presidential Address of 1915 and I do not like to take up your time by going over the same arguments again But I would like to bring to your notice the following extract from the Imperial Gazetteer of India

"Octroi is levied only in the Panjab, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and Bombay In these Provinces it is the principal source of taxation and in the Panjab it yields more than 90 per cent of local taxes It is a form of impost

which is not without objection as its management is expensive, and unless kept within narrow limits and carefully watched, it is apt to degenerate into a transit duty and thus inflict injury on trade It is however familiar through long usage to the inhabitants of North and West India (and I may add to the inhabitants of Mysore also) and could not be abolished without the imposition of direct taxes which would be much less popular Town duties were a common incident of native administration and everything that passed into or through the City had to pay a *chungi* or handful It was not until many years had elapsed, and repeated orders had been issued that the impost lost the injur ous qualities of a transit duty "

The demand on the part of Municipal Councils for the increase of dutiable articles is increasing and it seems to me that a definite principle should be laid down for the selection of such articles One principle I would advocate is that no article of local production should be taxed if it has to stand competition with foreign manufactured or imported article

Representations have also been made for the substitution of Mohatarfa shop tax in place of profession tax The Conference of 1915 recommended the abolition of shop tax and introduction of the Profession tax Things have changed considerably since and Income tax has been introduced Whether a tax of the same nature should be levied by the Municipalities is a point for consideration Shop tax has this advantage that people have been accustomed to it by long usage and it is authoritatively stated that the success of the Bombay Municipal Administration in its initial stages during the middle of the last century was due to the fact that it imposed taxes which had their prototype in the Mohatarfa taxes of the Mahratta Administration

Another important suggestion made is the introduction of Municipal trading The arguments both for and against have been summed up in the notes placed in your hands and the question is not easy of decision An English writer on Local Self-Government writes on the subject as follows —

"The controversy is unceasing from decade to decade Abstract principle on the one side or the other is supplemented by a perennial battle of statistics and the flinging of profit and loss which each interprets as he pleases It is certainly not my purpose to attempt to justify one side or the other Those who delight in argument will find a bulky literature for their examination But so far as the facts are concerned, it may be roughly laid down that there has been a general tendency to give the Cities the right to work their own monopolies and a great reluctance to permit them to embark on trading which has no monopoly character"

The same writer observes, "Continental countries are familiar for example with the municipal theatre, the municipal music-hall, the municipal concert room, and the municipal beer garden, and there is no intrinsic reason why you should not see in the future the municipal cinema showing edifying films, or the municipal public-houses providing teetotal or weekly alcoholic refreshment"

I do not know what the decision of this Conference will be, but if you decide in favour of municipal trading I would suggest at once a motor service for which a monopoly can be easily created and the establishment of baths, for which there is a real necessity, and of agricultural depots for the sale of agricultural tools and implements which will greatly help the raiyat population

Municipal organisation

You might remember that in his Presidential Speech at the Conference of 1915, Rajasabha-

bhushana Dewan Bahadur Mr K P Puttanna Chetty advocated the appointment of Municipal Commissioners on the Bombay model I am glad to state that a Bill providing for the appointment of Commissioners for City Municipalities has been recently passed by the Legislative Council

As regards the appointment of Presidents, the policy of the Government has of late years been to give elected non-official Presidents to Municipal Councils at District Headquarters, except at places where the Municipal Commissioners have failed to elect their Presidents and Vice-Presidents under the rules Such a phenomenon occurred recently in the premier Cities of Bangalore and Mysore In this connection I would like to read to you the following extract from the book from which I have already quoted

"In France the Mayor (Maire) or chief ruler of even the tiniest village or town in the remotest corner is appointed by the central Government in Paris and is responsible to that Government for the way in which he carries on his duties In Germany before the War, the paid Burgo-master who largely maintained the activity of the town was responsible to the Government for the efficiency of the town, and efficient Burgo masters were promoted from administering small communities to ruling over great Cities"

The report of the Bombay Committee on Local Self-Government appointed in 1915 commends the French system for adoption Para 28 of that report runs as follows —"The introduction of Local Self-Government in India is based on the Western Science of administrative decentralisation, and it is necessary therefore to study closely western precedents and to adapt them cautiously to Indian conditions A closer parallel will be found to Indian conditions of public life in France than in England

and the French system is by universal consent more complete and logical than the English Both of course are governed by historic traditions, and an analysis of the difference would be out of place here. If the analogy be admitted then, since Local Government is undoubtedly a living thing in France, it would appear to be unobjectionable to model the new system for advanced districts on the French pattern "

Government have gone too far to adopt the French system in its entirety, but as regards the election of Presidents there seems to be no reason why the American system of electing the President by a plebiscite should not be adopted In the great City of New York, for example, the Mayor and the Chief Officials are elected directly by the voters which election "has all the interest and much of the importance of the State, Government or Presidential election" Whether our direct election of the President will have that importance and grandeur I cannot say, but we are sure to be spared the fracases which we have seen of late and which do not enhance the prestige and reputation of our premier Municipal Councils

Another subject which though not on the agenda I would like to bring before the Conference is the system prevailing in England that though the term of office of Town Councillors is three years, the elections are so arranged that one third of the Councillors retire every year This system has the advantage of continuity and of keeping alive the interest of the citizens in the Municipal Councils which at present becomes dormant as soon as an election is over and revives again at the end of three years when a fresh election takes place

Local Boards.

Coming now to the second branch of the Local Self-Government Scheme, *viz*, the Loal Boards, they consist of District Boards and Taluk Boards, and the Village Panchayet which is the first link in the chain

of the Local Self Government Scheme is treated under our Regulation as a separate entity The constitution of these Boards has been democratised as much as possible under the Local Boards Regulation of 1918

Provision has been made for the appointment of non-official Presidents and Vice Presidents and already for two districts nominated non official Presidents have been given and the right of electing the President has been given to one other District Board How far the experiment will prove a success remains to be seen, for the President of a District Board unlike the President of a Municipal Council has a large area under his jurisdiction and will have to travel constantly and go into the interior of the District and this requires active habits and freedom from the worry and anxiety of earning one s daily bread Perhaps a better arrangement would be to introduce the system of Commissionership as in the City Municipal Councils, the Commissioner being the Chief Executive Officer of the Board subject to its control and the President being given the general powers of supervision

District Boards.

At present members of the District Board are generally elected by the Taluk Boards and a few Town Municipalities and some not exceeding one third of the strength of the Board, are nominated by the Government One of the subjects on the agenda is whether Municipalities should be represented *qua* Municipalities when under Section 4 of the Local Boards Regulation, the District Boards have no jurisdiction over Municipalities Another point and a very important point for consideration is whether the election to the District Board should be by secondary election, *i e*, by Taluk Boards as at present, or by direct election The latter system seems to be very much in favour now Almost all the Conferences that have been held in the Madras Presidency in recent times have advocated that system It seems to me that if the District Boards are to be a living force capable

of influencing and being influenced by the people, that system will have to be adopted At present the rate-payer is not in direct contact with the Board that administers the taxes collected from him and the representative of the Taluk Board on the District Board may not at all be his nominee Consequently he loses all interest in the work and in the activities of the District Board That seems to be the real reason why the District Board has failed to influence village life as is evident from the fact, as I shall show later on, that it has failed in the resuscitation of village communities If direct election is adopted and the representation of Municipalities is done away with, the present strength of the Board, especially of Bangalore which is somewhat unwieldy can be reduced to manageable proportions Only the number of nominated members will have to be slightly increased The Bombay Committee says, "The power of nomination has been and will continue to be necessary to find places on the Boards both for representatives of special sections of inhabitants and for gentlemen who for diverse reasons are unwilling to submit themselves to election by the ordinary territorial constituencies It is beyond question that such nominated gentlemen have in some cases proved to be amongst the most valuable members of the Boards It would be invidious to mention many names but the outstanding example is the late Hon'ble Mr Gokhale whose services might have been lost to the country had he not been nominated to be a member of the Poona Municipality" It is worthy of note that the elected President of the Bangalore District Board and the two nominated Presidents are nominated members of the respective District Boards

Taluk Boards.

Coming now to Taluk Boards, they are constituted by the direct election of some members by rural constituencies, by the representation of some select Village Panchayets and by nomination by Govern-

ment of representatives of different classes and interests The system of selection amongst Village Panchayets for representation in the Taluk Board has not given satisfaction and demands are being made to extend the privilege to all Village Panchayets The demand cannot be resisted upon any good ground and if the privilege is given to all, the Taluk Boards would not only become unwieldy, but the resources of the Boards will not be sufficient to meet the travelling allowances of the members Apart from this the question has been raised recently whether there is any necessity for an intermediary Board between the District Board and Village Panchayets The Hon'ble Mr Patro has elaborately discussed the question in his book, "Studies in Local Self Government" and he is inclined to the view that the Taluk Boards should be given the full powers of District Boards, an Advisory Committee of experts taking the place of District Boards The Bengal Government has already drafted a bill for the abolition of Taluk Boards, which was placed for discussion before the District Boards Conference recently held in Calcutta In Madras the Taluk Board is more or less a Sub Division Board and exercises jurisdiction over the area included in a Revenue Sub-Division In Madras, the area, the revenue, and population of a taluk are much larger than that of any taluk in Mysore and so the idea of a Taluk Board with separate Engineering, Medical and Sanitary services may be quite feasible But in Mysore the finances of Taluk Boards, in spite of the fact that they are entitled to 50 per cent of the local cess, are so poor that they cannot aspire to the higher position advocated for them in Madras The Revenue of the Taluk Board is consumed in making contributions towards the maintenance of roads, medical and sanitary services and in meeting the cost of their clerical and executive establishments They have not been able to make any contributions towards the Village Panchayets and

they do not get more than a few hundred rupees to operate upon in respect of works of public utility There is much to be said in favour of the Bengal Scheme, but it may be argued that we have gone a bit too far to introduce it into Mysore But if the Conference decides to continue these Boards, it is necessary to devise measures to make them efficient and do practical good work I may say that neither the Board nor its executive have done any substantial work towards reviving the Village Panchayets or putting more life into Village Communal Organisations

Functions of Local Boards.

The powers and duties of the Local Boards are well known to you and it is not necessary for me here to describe them at any length They were under Regulation No VI of 1918 of two kinds, obligatory and optional, but the amending Regulation III of 1921 imposing upon the Boards the duty of economic development makes all the duties obligatory But the obligatory nature of these duties has been qualified by the phrases 'as far as funds permit' and 'subject to such conditions and exceptions as the Government may from time to time make or impose' But no substantial work in the field of economic development has been undertaken by any of the Boards in spite of allotments made by the Government and they are going on with the ordinary routine of their duties in the matter of maintenance of roads, musafirkhanas and cattle pounds, of sanitation and medical relief None of these duties appeal to the heart or head of the generality of the rural population The ryot is notoriously indifferent to communications because his bullock and *wodder* carts can negotiate any rut or pit in the road or cart track He does not care for musafirkhanas and travellers' bungalows, because he seldom stirs out of his village except it be to go occasionally to the Taluk Cutcherry or law Courts He hates from the bottom of his heart cattle-pounds and regards the v t of the Sani-

tary Inspector as a nuisance if not a source of oppression He has begun to appreciate the western system of medicine but he thinks that the dispensaries are established through the bounty of the Government The things that he is most interested in, his lands, his cattle, his pastures and tanks have been placed outside the purview of the Local Boards No wonder then that the Local Board Administration has not touched and influenced the Village life to any appreciable extent and the authors of the Mysore Constitutional Reforms Report have rightly characterised our local Boards, as "the paralytic lower limbs of the administration" But the paralysis is purely of local origin and is not due to the weakness of the head which supplies the nerve power If a proper stimulus is given there is no reason why these limbs should not regain their strength and function with vigour First and foremost, the Local Boards should change their methods of work and pay greater attention to education, agriculture, veterinary hospitals, co operative societies, arts and crafts and subsidiary occupations in addition to medical relief and sanitation—things in which the raiyat is directly interested and which are calculated to improve his moral and material condition This means money and the question arises how to improve the finances of the Boards

Finances of District Boards.

The average ordinary income of the District Boards during the four years prior to the introduction of the Local Self-Government Scheme was Rs 8,21,581 and it rose in the four following years to Rs 13,05,000 The increase is partly due to the transfer by the Government of Local Funds, General and Mohatarfa amounting to Rs 2,50,000 and 2,82,000 respectively and partly to the increase in the local cess on account of the increase of land revenue The income from other sources, *viz*, tolls, ferries and cattle pounds and markets is small and it has remained almost stationary The expenditure has gone up from Rs 8,38,228 in 1916 17 to Rs 10,71,162 in 1921 22

The increase in the expenditure is due chiefly to the increased cost of establishments increased allotment for the maintenance of roads, increased cost of medical relief and sanitation and other incidental expenses such as printing charges and travelling allowances The expenditure under travelling allowances alone has increased from Rs 13,741 in 1916-17 to Rs 41,500 in 1921-22 Of the eight District Boards, the District Boards of Shimoga and Kadur have a minus balance, their normal income being Rs 71,600 and Rs 46,000 respectively while their normal expenditure amounts to Rs 80,430 and Rs 48,391 The other Boards show a little excess of normal income over normal expenditure which vary from Rs 14,636 in the case of Hassan District to Rs 50,587 in the case of Mysore District But these savings seem to me to have been effected at the cost of works of public utility The expenditure upon public works in the year 1916-17 was Rs 1,23,964 and it came down to Rs 76,253 in 1920-21 To do any real effective good work, the resources of the Boards have to be improved But there is no elasticity in their system of revenue The main sources of revenue are, as you know, 76 per cent of local cess and mohatarfa, the income from other sources as already stated being small and not capable of much expansion Mohatarfa too is a diminishing source of revenue, for wherever a Village Panchayet is formed the revenue from that source in respect of the village or group of villages concerned goes to the Panchayet at the expense of the District Board Other sources of revenue are to be tapped, but the District Boards have no powers of local taxation like the Municipal Councils The Boards are therefore dependent entirely upon the bounties of Government and this kills the initiative, destroys the sense of responsibility and individuality and introduces an element of uncertainty in the finances which is not conducive to steady and rapid development and that is the reason why eminent

writers on Local Self-Government have condemned the system of doles from Government In the order on the Local Self Government Scheme, Government have promised to give grants in aid to local bodies equivalent to half the amount they may raise by special means This is the right principle which has been adopted by the Ministry of Health in England The same principle of grant in-aid may be extended by the Government in case of services also instead of receiving contributions from the Boards The Government should give grants in-aid to the local bodies, transferring to them the control over the services Medical, Sanitary, Educational and Engineering, as far as it is compatible with efficiency, for without such control the District Board will be an abstract entity and not a living organisation capable of influencing the life and actions of the people committed to its charge For the foregoing reasons I would advocate the following measures for the success and progressive development of District Board Administration—

(1) An element of elasticity and expansiveness in the revenue system of the District Boards

(2) Power of levying local rates for necessary and essential services

(3) The duties of an obligatory nature to be defined

(4) A larger power of control over the services, the maintenance of which wholly or partially is a charge upon the District Fund

(5) Direct responsibility of the members to the rate payers and the introduction therefore of the system of direct election

These may also be supplemented with larger powers of expenditure and power to pass their own budgets subject to certain safe-guards which the Royal Commission on Decentralization recommended

and which the Government of India have now accepted in their Resolution of 1918

Village Panchayets.

Coming now to the last link in the chain of Local Self-Government which ought properly speaking to be the first, the importance of the development of Villlage Panchayets has been emphasised from time to time in the Government of India resolution of 1882, in the Report of the Decentralization Commission and last but not least in our own Reforms Report, just published by the Government, the authors of which describe it as "the true Jacob's ladder for a safe and sure ascent to the democrat's Heaven"

Government being aware of the importance of the Village Panchayet to the material and moral progress of the country passed a liberal measure of reform in the Local Boards and Village Panchayet Regulation of 1918 constituting it a self-governing and autonmous unit with powers of taxation which the Taluk and District Boards do not possess But in spite of the fact that the organization has been given the characteristics of the old Village Panchayet, it has not succeeded as well as it should have done Out of the Unions started under the Regulation of 1902, 250 are stated to be working as Panchayets and out of 607 Panchayets notified under the new scheme of Local Self Government only 46 are stated to be functioning and very many villages have put in applications for disestablishment This is a great disappointment indeed and it behoves us therefore to find out the true causes of the failure and provide adequate remedy for the same The situation with which we are confronted now is the one which the authorities had to face in Bengal on the first introduction of the Municipal Act in Towns in 1842 It is stated that not only the people refused to pay the taxes but tried to prosecute the person who attempted to collect them The same is stated to have been the fate of the subsequent Act passed in 1850 But

the Municipal administration has prospered and taken deep root in the country because of official connection with it In our villages also the official stimulus is necessary because for ages past the villagers have been in the habit of looking up to officials only for guidance in almost every walk of life The Vice-President of the Taluk Board goes to the village but the Patel and the village officials do not care for him He therefore feels reluctant to tour and his itineration is not generally satisfactory In one Taluk I found that the Vice-President of the Taluk Board had not moved out of his headquarters for more than 18 days in a year Under such conditions it is futile to expect that village administration will prosper and as a result of this we find that there is a heavy accumulation of arrears to the extent of some thousands of rupees In the Bangalore District alone the arrears amount to Rs 54,377, in the Tumkur District to Rs 46,393 and in Chitaldrug to Rs 34,006 The success of the old Union Panchayets was due to the fact that they were brought into existence and nurtured under official discipline That official sympathy is necessary in the initial stages is evident from the history of the municipal administration in Mysore and other parts of India This appears also to be the feeling in other parts of India as is evident from one of the resolutions of the Local and Municipal Conference of the Northern group of Districts of the Madras Presidency held in October last It seems to me therefore that till the Panchayet is able to stand on its own legs, the Patel and the Shanbhog should be the chief functionaries of the Panchayet, discharging their functions with the aid of an elected body of the elders of the village or *Yejmans* and under the direct control of the Revenue authorities, the President of the District Board having co ordinate functions of inspection and criticism

As regards the functions of the Panchayets, everything which is useful to the village life and in which

the rural population is expected to take interest has been included in Section 54 of the Local Boards and Village Panchayets Regulation in prescribing the duties of the Panchayet But attention has not been concentrated upon a few points essential to the development of village life in accordance with modern requirements The ordinary notion of the duties of a Village Panchayet, as it is now working, is to provide a few sweepers and a few lights in the village, which on account of mismanagement excites the contempt of the raiyat rather than his thankfulness As in the case of Municipal Councils some of the duties must be made obligatory and the taxes collected should be spent upon permanent works of utility so that the raiyat may find and realise that the money he pays is not wasted, and does not go into the pockets of others but is used for the good of the village Education and not conservancy should be the first and foremost duty of a Village Panchayet Every village or a group of villages should have a primary school with an agricultural section attached to it and if not a separate section it must at least have a curriculum of studies with an agricultural bias When a school is given, the Panchayet may be asked to levy a rate to supplement the grant that may be given to it by the Government This will avoid the necessity of the education cess being levied for the whole district The present provision that 75 per cent of the Taluk Boards in the district and an equal proportion of District Board members should vote for the levy of the cess is unscientific in its nature and quite unworkable in practice There is absolutely no reason why a minority of Taluk Boards or a minority of District Board members should act as a drag upon the educational progress of the people of other taluks anxious to educate their children and willing to pay for the same In my opinion the unit for primary education should be the village and not the district If this proposal commends itself to the

Conference, I think the problem of primary education will be easily solved

Besides a school, the Panchayet should have a Vaidyasala, a trained *dayi* or midwife and a Co-operative Society which must not be of the ordinary kind but a combined credit and agricultural society so that the villagers may borrow small sums of money as well as purchase manure, agricultural implements and seed from it, the Panchayet contributing some of the capital necessary for the purpose The Panchayet may also be entrusted with jurisdiction to try petty cases of a civil nature The Decentralization Commission as well as the authors of the Report on Indian Constitutional Reforms recommend the investiture of criminal powers as well, but I think we may for the present follow the English practice under which separate justices of the peace are appointed by the Government The Panchayet may also be invested with the power of control over the muzrai institutions of the village and may also be given the necessary powers under the Tank Panchayet Scheme Upon the analogy of the English boroughs maintaining their own Police they may be asked to arrange for night watch as is being done now in the Punjab

These may be classified as the obligatory duties of a Panchayet, the other duties such as improvement of communications and improvement of the village, establishment of a village choultry, reading room and library and even conservancy being relegated to the optional group to be undertaken as funds permit If we adopt this principle we will be able to approximate the village Panchayet to the old conditions and may thus be able to vivify the village life and develop a healthy growth

Another point to be considered in this connection is whether all the villages in the District should not be brought under the operation of the Village Panchayet Regulation The present practice of

having non-panchayet areas, whether with village improvement committees or not, paying no taxes and bearing no burdens side by side with the panchayets which pay taxes is pernicious in the extreme. Sir M. Visvesvaraya writes in his book "Reconstructing India" as follows —

"Japan faced with a similar problem, has solved it by grouping some 72,000 small villages for purpose of local administration in 12,000 unions By this method, the remotest village has been enabled to attain to a standard of local education, production, sanitation and communications which would have been beyond its capacity had it sought independently to meet such requirements"

It may not be possible for the ordinary Revenue agency to undertake this stupendous task, but a special officer can be appointed for each Taluk or Sub Division to devote his full attention to this work

My scheme therefore for the improvement of the working of the Panchayets in its outlines is as follows —

(1) Every village or a group of villages should be constituted into a panchayet

(2) The functions of a panchayet should be divided into obligatory and optional functions and the former should include primary education, medical relief, water supply and co operation

(3) The panchayets should be bound to supplement by taxation, to the extent necessary for the performance of their obligatory functions, the contributions that may be made to them by the Government or by the District Board for the performance of these objects

(4) The panchayets should have power of independent action and power also over their purse, outside control over them being limited to the mam-

um for preventing deviation from the general policy
misapplication of funds

(5) The control over the Village Panchayets should vest in the Revenue Department, say for period of five years, until these panchayets are brought into proper working order

These are the thoughts that suggest to me on some the important subjects on the agenda I do not like to deal with the other subjects as they are more or less of a departmental nature and do not involve any important question of principle The views that I have expressed in this address are my personal views and should not be mistaken for the views of the Government My views also are subject to revision, alteration and modification in the light of discussions in this Conference With regard to Local Self Government, there are no official or non official views Officials and non officials are animated by the same desire to see that the Local Self Government Scheme is a success and that the people manage their affairs efficiently and in such a manner as to bring more happiness and more comforts to their homes Officials have been associated with you in this Conference not to enforce their views upon you but to help you by their long experience of administration to arrive at a proper decision in your deliberations Success in the government of local bodies can be achieved only if the view point of their administration is changed The bent of their work should be economic, and moral and material progress of the people their chief aim

Conclusion

I would ask you now to proceed with the discussion of the subjects on the agenda, and I hope your deliberations will be inspired by the spirit of the the following exhortation of Ruskin on the mutual responsibilities of the people and the Government —

"I wish to plead for your several and future ideration of this one truth, that the notion of

Discipline and Interference lies at the very root of all human progress or power, that the 'Let alone' principle is, in all things which man has to do with, the principle of death, that it is ruin to him, certain and total, if he lets his land alone—if he lets his fellow-men alone—if he lets his own soul alone, that his whole life, on the contrary must, if it is a healthy life, be continually one of ploughing and pruning, rebuking and helping, governing and punishing, and that therefore it is only in the concession of some great principle of restraint and interference in national action that he can ever hope to find the secret of protection against national degradation I believe that the masses have a right to claim education from their government, but only so far as they acknowledge the duty of yielding obedience to their Government I believe they have a right to claim employment from their governors, but only so far as they yield to the governor the direction and discipline of their labour and it is only so far as they grant to the men whom they may set over them, the father's authority to check the childishnesses of national fancy, and direct the waywardnesses of national energy, that they have a right to ask that none of the distresses should be unrelieved, none of their weaknesses unwatched, and that no grief, nor nakedness nor peril, should exist for them, against which the father's hand was not outstretched, or the father's shield uplifted"

In proposing a vote of thanks to the Dewan, Rajasabhabhushana Dewan Bahadur Mr. K P. Puttanna Chetty, C I E , spoke as follows -

Dewan Sahib and Mr. President,-- My heart naturally rejoices at seeing this second Local Self-Government Conference organised by the good will of the Government of H. H the Maharaja, at which are gathered the chosen representatives and stalwarts of our City Municipalities and other Municipal Boards of the District and Taluk boards and Village Panchayets. This may be truely called a people's Conference, though some would have liked to see it organised by the people themselves without the benevolent intervention of Government as was done with the first Conference of the kind held at Mysore Many years have elapsed, and the Government could not have waited indefinitely. The raison d'etre of this conference has been given in the Dewan's opening address We are now at the threshold of the introduction of constitutional reforms in Mysore, and Local Self Government could not afford to wait Both must go hand in hand, so that the people may have a full measure of the Reforms We therefore meet to day to take stock of what has already been accomplished and to consider what further advance is necessary The Conference of 1915, over which I had the honour to preside was a notable one in many respects, and the result of its deliberations was seen in the inauguration of a largermeasure of self-Government in our Municipal and District Board administration and the institution of ~~Village~~ of Village Panchayets It is sincerely to be hoped that the present conference will be fully availed of by the representatives of the people and its deliberations conducted along fruitful lines which will lead to the further extension of the boundaries of Local Self-Government and a solution of the many problems bearing on the civic well being of our people I need not remind

remind you, my fellow citizens, that your activities in this Conference intimately concern the daily lives lived in urban and rural areas, and must therefore appeal to the large public outside this hall and also those outside the State who are faced with the same problems The predominant share in a Conference like this belongs to the people, the Government playing the role of sleeping, but ever vigilant partners, with one eye always open It a matter of gratification to the public that the Dewan and Members of Council are so thoroughly indentifying themselves with the people's cause on this platform

The various suggestions made in the opening and presidental addresses will, I am sure, receive adequate discussion. The immediate objects of my rising at this stage is to perform the very pleasant duty of proposing a hearty vote of thanks to our esteemed and erudite Dewan, Mr. A R Banerji, for the favour he has conferred upon us by opening this conference and delivering an illuminating address, which is characterised by the usual clarity of thought, breadth of view, grasp of essentials, and lucidity of expression which we have learnt to associate with his public utterances I trust that his weighty words of advice will engage your earnest attention in the course of your deliberations.

A vote of thanks was here passed to the Dewan with loud acclamation, and Mr. Puttanna Chetty resumed - "I beg to propose another vote of thanks to Mr Mir Humza Hussain, Second Member of Council, who delivered the presidential address, which was exhaustive, covering the whole ground of local Self-Government and teaming with useful and constructive suggestions.

The Dewan and other ~~invited~~ guests other than delegates left at 1-30 P M when the discussion of subjects began with the President Mr. Mir Humza Hussain in the Chair The Conference was at first proposed to be held for three days, but it had to be extended by -- another day to enable all the subjects being discussed The attendance of the delegates on each of four days of the Conference was as follows -

First day ..	107
Second . .	102
Third .	105
Fourth .	80
Average .	98

Before commencing the discussion of subjects, the President wanted to know the sense of the meeting as to the desirability or otherwise of the house resolving itself into Sub Committees for the discussion of the subjects on the agenda and submitting their views to the Conference in the form of resolutions. Messrs H Rangaswamy Iyengar, C Subba Rao and P Venkataramaiya spoke on the subject and the conclusion arrived at was that there was no necessity to form sub Committees but that each of the subjects should be considered and resolutions arrived at in the Conference itself

The first subject taken up for discussion was that of Village Panchayets. Mr. Malali Venkataramaiya who opened the discussion on the subject, emphasised the need for proper supervision on the part of Revenue Officers if these institutions were to work satisfactorily He also advocated the desirability of enlarging the powers and functions of these Panchayets by investing them with the power to dispose of Civil suits of small value and by ~~expressing~~ empowering them to institute prosecutions for breaches of sanitary rules and to levy fines in that connection He was against the establishment of village panchayets in all villages without discrimination whether they are likely to work satisfactorily or not In his opinion it was far more desirable to establish a small number of such Panchayets in a few select villages in each District and after their usefulness was demonstrated by their proper working, try to establish more such Panchayets in other villages

Mr. Vema Reddy of Malur advocated the desirability of establishing village panchayets in all villages and

of improving the elective system by providing for the representation of the Yajaman or headman of each community on the village Panchayet.

Mr. H. Venkataramaiya of Tumkur stated that, in his opinion, the main reason why village panchayets did not work satisfactorily was that the Amildar as President of the Taluk Board had powers of supervision over the Village Panchayets but he did not exercise the same effectively as he thought that the responsibility lay with the non-official Vice President of the Taluk Board He added that even assuming that in future these Amildar Presidents will be replaced by non-official gentlemen, no satisfactory improvement in the working of the Panchayets could be expected unless these Presidents made it a point to pay a visit to the Panchayets once a month or oftener, attend their meetings occasionally and issue instructions for their improvement One other way in which these Village Panchayets could be made to work more satisfactorily was by insisting upon the Sanitary Inspector of the Taluk Board who is now working as an Assistant of the Amildar going and seeing the work of the Village Panchayet once a fortnight and submitting a report to the President on pain of some penalty In conclusion, Mr Venkataramaiya thought it desirable to extend the system of village panchayets to every village if the scheme was to work satisfactorily as there was a feeling now among the residents of those villages in which panchayets had been established that they alone had been subjected to Mohatarfa taxation while their neighbours went off scot-free There were heavy arrears in Panchayets as Chairmen were unwilling to take coercive measures against defaulters One way in which these arrears could be reduced was by the Vice President of the Taluk Board being directed to make particular enquiries about arrears when he visits a Panchayet and to have effective coercive steps taken for realising the same

Mr Shama Sastry of Maddagiri also advocated the extension of the Village Panchayet scheme to all the villages in the State and pleaded for better arrangements being made for collection work in such panchayets as the Chairmen are not now exercising their power in respect of influential men in the village

Mr. Bairam Khan Sab of Malvalli pointed out that the money collected by Panchayets was being spent mostly for meeting the pay of scavangers, leaving very little for the improvement of roads etc., He deplored the lack of proper arrangements for collection work in village panchayets, the Shanbhog paying little attention for the collection of dues and pleaded for proper arrangements being made for collection work

Mr Osman Khan of Bangalore also deplored the lack of proper arrangements for collection work in village panchayets and suggested the desirability of the Vice President and President of the Taluk Board being given power to realise the arrears by the issue of notice and warran

Mr Natesa Mudaliar of French Rocks suggested that if the Village Panchayets are to work efficiently, it was desirable to appoint Sheikdars as Chairmen for the panchayets constituted within their jurisdiction, the Shanbhog or Patel being the Vice Chairmen, full powers as regards the issue of cheques &c , being given to the Shanbhog or Patel He added that the Amildars should continue to be Presidents of Taluk Boards for some time to come if Village Panchayets are to work satisfactorily

Mr G. Selva Pillai of Gorur, Hassan District stated that the main cause for the unsatisfactory collection work in village Panchayets was that the Chairmen did not care to take coercive measures against defaulrer for fear of incuring their displeasure He suggested the enlargement of the functions of village Panchayets

directions

directions, E.G , that they may be invested with the power to dispose of Civil Suits of a small value and that they may also be given power to try Criminal cases as in the Madras Presidency.

Mr. H Krishna Sastry of Krishnarajpet pointed out that the collections made by village panchayets were generally utilised for meeting the Chairmen's allowance and the scavanger's pay and practically nothing was left for the improvement of roads etc , He therefore pleaded for the grant of some contribution by Government to enable the panchayets attending to works of utility One other direction in which the working of village panchayets could be improved was, according to him, by minimising the delay caused in getting the maramat estimates sanctioned

Mr Lakshmikanta Bhatta of Kalale, Nanjangud Taluk advocated the desirability of making necessary arrangements for the collection of arrears in village panchayets by the appointment of a Sheikdar for each Taluk solely for this work so that cases in which arrears remained uncollected for very many years may be few and far between.

Mr Krishnamurthiachar of Mulbagal, suggested that if arrears of village Panchayets are to be collected promptly, it was very nedessary to see that the Chairmen strictly adopted coercive measures by the timely issue of demand notices If, in spite of these measures, no tangible result was forthcoming, the Taluk Board President or Vice President should step in and take the necessary measures for the collection of arrears by empowering a Sheikdar or Sanitary Inspector to issue notices and realise the arrears He strongly deprecated the practice of spending the money collected in employing scavengers and suggested that the panchayets might

Rate their funds for 3 or 4 years so that they

they might utilise the sums for the carrying out of improvement works He also advocated the desirability of some grants being given out of State funds to carry on the work satisfactorily and expressed himself as being in favour of abolishing panchayets in villages whose population was less than 500 and against the system of grouping two or more villages for establishing village Panchayets.

Mr B Srinivasa Iyengar of Anekal stated that, in his experience, the real cause why the work of village Panchayets was not satisfactory was on account of the prevalence of party spirit in villages, As regards the unsatisfactory collection work, the real practical difficulty lay in the Chairmen of Village Panchayets not having the necessary agency to execute, ~~xx~~ demand notices &c , Under the circumstances, it was necessary for some time to come that the Revenue Agency should help in the matter of collection work As the people were quite ignorant of the rules, it was necessary to get the Local Fund Account Code and Manual published very soon.

At this stage, the President pointed out that the views of the house regarding the various measures required to be adopted for the improvement of village Panchayets in the State had been elicited fully and there was hardly any need to invite further discussion on the subject He therefore thought that the definite views of the house might be recorded in the form of a resolution on each point The first question on which the opinion of the house was invited was as to whether all the villages of the taluks should be brought within the scheme of village panchayets, or whether some villages should be allowed to continue as they are

Messrs C Subba Rao of Shimoga, W Abbas Khan of Bangalore, C Srinivasa Rao of Chikmagalur, H Suryanarayana Rao of Tumkur, Vema Reddy of Malur, D Venkatesaiya of Kolar, T Krishna Rao of Mysore, B Oosman

B. Oosman Khan of Bangalore and several other members were in favour of village panchayets being introduced into all the villages in the State, while Mr. Earnick Krishnamurthy Rao of Bangalore, and Mr. H Venkataramaiya of Tumkur were against the proposal, and so also Mr. S Venkatesaiya of Hassan who was for the introduction of a panchayet only in places having a population of more than 600, and for the grouping of villages only at the option of the people affected

Discussion was next invited as to what should be the obligatory duties of Village Panchayets. The question as to whether education should be one of the obligatory duties of Village Panchayets elicited a very warm discussion at the hands of the members A majority of them were in favour of the proposition while a few opposed the same Notable among the latter was Mr. D. Venkatesaiya of Kolar who pleaded vehemently that it was the duty of the Central Government and not that of the Local Government to provide for primary education in rural as well as urban areas The Inspector General of Education explained the practice prevailing in other parts of the world as to the responsibility of the various local bodies and the State as regards education Mr S Venkatesaiya of Hassan was opposed to the establishment of schools in each village or groups of villages irrespective of the desire of the inhabitants thereof and thought that the unit for education should be the District Board and not the Village Panchayet The Registrar of Co-operative Societies strongly opposed the views put forward by Mr. S. Venkatesaiya and pleaded that, in the interests of the welfare of the masses, it was not right to deny education to any village

The proposition having been put to the vote, it was carried by a large majority 47 voting for and only 5 against

The President then called for the views of the house as to the desirability of bringing several other items such as sanitation including water supply, communications, agriculture and co-operation, village muzrai &c., under the obligatory duties of the Village Panchayets As a result of the discussions elicited, the following resolutions were passed by the house -

I That, if the Village Panchayet Scheme is to work satisfactorily, it should be introduced into all rural areas without exception, the jurisdiction of the Panchayet being confined to a single village or a group of neighbouring villages according to the convenience and wishes of the people.

II That the following services should be prescribed as the obligatory duties of Village Panchayets -

(a) Primary Education
(b) Sanitation including water supply
(c) Communications
(d) Agriculture including Veterinary & Sericulture
(e) Co-operation

III. That it is desirable to invest village panchayets with the powers of a Village Court under the Village Courts Regulation.

IV. That it is desirable also to give to the village panchayet the powers now exercised by Dharmadarsis over the Village Muzrai Institutions

V That the Village Panchayets should be bound supplement by taxation to the extent necessary for the discharge of their obligatory functions, the contributions that may be made to them by the Government or the District Board, for the performance of these duti

VI. That a Committee consisting of official and non-official gentlemen be appointed (1) to formulate detailed scheme for the establishment of Village Pan

vets

Panchayets in accordance with Resolution No. I. (2) to indicate the Agency which should exercise control over these Panchayets, (3) to suggest the extent to which and the manner in which the Panchayets should perform the obligatory duties, (4) to suggest the conditions under which ~~Work~~ Tank Panchayets may be amalgamated with ~~the~~ Village Panchayets, and ~~lastly~~ (5) to suggest any other matters of communal interest that may be brought under the category of obligatory duties

VII That Village Improvement Committees formed under the executive orders of Government be abolished and the funds at their credit placed at the disposal of the Village Panchayets to be constituted in accordance with Resolution No. I in the respective areas for use in the execution ~~And the Panchayets should use the funds in furtherance~~ of the objects for which the amounts have been ~~was originally~~ collected

VIII That it is not desirable to entrust the registration of births and deaths to Village Panchayets and that the existing arrangements for this work do continue, the Regulation on the subject being suitably amended so as to bring this work within the purview of the functions of District Boards and ~~to~~ impose upon the Patels the duty of maintaining the prescribed registers instead of appointing separate Registrars for this purpose

~~IX. That the Rules under the Village Sanitation Regulation be so modified as to empower Village Panchayets to grant house-building licenses and institute prosecutions for breaches of these Rules~~

The resolutions recorded on the previous day were read out and the formal approval of the members was sought for to the same

Mr S Venkatesaiya of Hassan thought that the resolution regarding the grouping of villages for the formation of village panchayets required amendment so as to make it clear that no grouping should be attempted except with the consent of the villagers concerned

The President explained that this had already been made clear in the Resolution and no amendment was called for

Mr C Narasimhaiya of Mysore wanted to know whether by the resolution making education one of the obligatory duties of village Panchayets, it was meant that the panchayet concerned should itself meet the entire expenditure in connection with it or whether Government would also come forward with a suitable contribution.

The President explained that it was the establishment and maintenance of education institutions that was made obligatory in respect of village panchayets and that there was nothing to preclude Government making a contribution of a half or one-third of the cost involved

Mr. H. V enkataramaiya of Tumkur contended that the contribution to be paid by the Government should be fixed in the first instance, at least the minimum sum should be fixed and it should in no case be lessened He accordingly suggested an amendment to the proposition to the effect that the grant should not be reduced but supplemented

The President explained that it was not desirable to make such a hard and fast rule as the amount of contribution that could be paid by Government would depend

depend upon the financial condition and it would not be possible to say beforehand what sum Government might be able to contribute He added that there was no justification for the members to cherish any fears or doubts on the subject as, according to the new constitutional Reforms, the people themselves will have a voice in voting sums for particular objects and it would be open to them to propose such contribution for education in villages as in their opinion might be considered adequate

Mr Abbas Khan of Bangalore opposed the amendment put forward by Mr H V Venkataramaiya and on its being put to vote, 13 voted for and 43 against and so it was lost

The next subject that was taken up for consideration was that relating to the Proper registration of births and deaths

Mr. C Vasudeva Rao of Chikmagalur who opened the discussion pointed out that the present registers maintained for the registration of births and deaths were not properly kept and all that was necessary was to see that the proper maintenance of the registers was strictly enforced He added that this might be considerably facilitated if the occurrence of a birth or death was duly reported by those responsible to report the occurrence It was therefore necessary in his opinion to enforce the reporting of births and deaths by providing for some penalty in case of default

The President pointed out that provision already existed in the Regulation for the punishment of those who failed to give information about births or deaths occurring in a village and failure to give information rendered the persons responsible, liable, on conviction before a Magistrate, to a fine not exceeding Rs 10

Mr H. Krishna Sastry of Krishnarajpet contended that it was very desirable and necessary that the registers of births and deaths should always remain in the village with the Patel, and not sent away either to the Taluk or District Office as was being done now

Mr. Ananda Rao Girsi of Bangalore explained that generally these registores were left with the Patel The patel sends the counterfoil to the Taluk Office and in the Taluk Office a statement is compiled and sent on to the District Office There may be some stray cases where these records are taken to the Taluk Office for some reference, but they will be returned in due course

Mr. Selva Pillai of Gorur, Hassan District urged the desirability of these registers being left with the Chairman of the Village Panchayet. He added that it was very necessary that these registers should be maintained properly and kept in safe custody as they were often required for evidence in courts He deprecated the practice of the Sheikdar sending these Registers to the Taluk Office through the kulvadi as that might lead to tampering and suggested that the duty of maintaining the registers should be transferred to the Chairman of the Village Panchayet

Mr L. V Ramaswamy Chetty of Bangalore was against the entrusting of the duty of maintaining these Registers to village panchayets as they were already overburdened with work.

After some further discussion, the question as to whether the registers of births and deaths should be with the chairman of the village panchayet or with the Patel was put to the vote.

Forty voted for the continuance of the existing practice of the work of registering births and deaths remaining with the Patel of the village while 24 voted

voted against the practice. It was accordingly resolved

That it is not desirable to entrust the registration of births and deaths to Village Panchayets and that the existing arrangements for this work do continue, the Regulation on the subject being suitably amended so as to bring this work within the purview of the functions of District Boards and to impose upon the Patels the duty of maintaining the prescribed registers instead of ~~appoix~~ appointing separate Registrars for this purpose.

Revision of S anitation Rules

The President pointed out that sanitation in rural areas was very unsatisfactory as may be judged from the inspections made during his tours, and added that it was desirable that some improvement should be effected in this respect He accordingly requested the members to give their valuable suggestions for improving sanitation in villages

Mr Vema Reddy of Malur suggested that, ~~xxxxxx~~ instead of the Sanitary Inspector looking after the work of sanitation in villages under directions from the Amildar who is the President of the Taluk board, it would be better if the Sanitary Inspector worked in conjunction with the Chairman of the Village Panchayet

Another Member suggested that the power of prosecution of persons committing nuisance near the villages should also be given to the Chairman of the Panchayet

The question as to who should grant house building licenses in villages was next discussed and it was decided that the power of granting such licenses should vest with the village Panchayets as also the power to institute prosecutions under the Village Sanitation Rules It was accordingly resolved

That the Rules under the Village Sanitation Regulation be so modified as to empower Village Panchayets to grant house-building licenses and institute prosecutions for breaches of these Rules

Compulsory Vaccination

The President explained that compulsory vaccination Regulation was being introduced in various Municipal areas, only as a temporary measure for short periods which were being extended from time to time and invited the opinion of the members on the question as to whether compulsory vaccination may not be introduced as a permanent measure in all the Municipal areas and also in other parts of the State

Mr T. Krishna Rao of Mysore contended that, while it was desirable to make vaccination compulsory throughout the State, it was at the same time necessary to see that, before such a step was taken, the staff of vaccinators was considerably strengthended as it was at present utterly inadequate

Mr Selva Pillai of Gorur, Hassan District, was against the introduction of compulsory vaccination as he knew that there has been some controversy with regard to the efficacy of vaccination as a protective measure in England and other places

Mr D V Gundappa of Bangalore stated that Mahatma Gandhi was one of those who was against vaccination

Mr Karnick Krishna Murthy Rao of Bangalore was also against compulsory vaccination unless the purity of the vaccine lymph used for the purpose was guaranteed by Government to be absolutely pure. He added that he knew of cases in which the use of the lymph proved dangerous to life

Mr S Srinivasa Rao of Chikmagalur pointed out that there may be some stray cases in which vaccination may have proved fatal but on that ground alone compulsory vaccination cannot be discouraged -

Several ~~other~~ members spoke in favour of compulsory vaccination and as the general sense of the house was in favour of the same, it was resolved

That vaccination in Municipal areas be made compulsory as a permanent measure and that the vaccination Regulation be extended also to all ~~village~~ Panchayet areas

Rules for the laying out of new villages

The President invited reference to page 38 of the Notes on subjects proposed for discussion and explained that, as therein stated, Mr C Narasimhiah who was appointed the Convenor of the Committee to investigate the question of village planning and sanitation in Mysore in the year 1917 sent a detailed report which dealt with the subject in a lucid manner The rules framed by the Committee were well thought out and deserved to be commended for adoption Suggestions were however invited as to the modifications if any to the existing practice in respect of the laying out of new villages and the improvement of the existing villages

Mr C Srinivasa Rao of Chikmagalur explained that the main difficulty in regard to the laying out and extension of villages lay in the fact that the place to be selected has to be approved by the Sanitary Department and the Revenue Department Where the Sanitary Department agreed, the Revenue Department did not and vice versa and thus the trouble of the poor was enhanced instead of being mitigated

Mr Gopalasami Iyer of Bangalore supported the previous speaker in the view that the main cause of the

the delay in the work of extension of villages lay in the fact that there was very often disagreement between the sanitary and the Revenue Departments regarding the selection of the Site Another cause of delay was due to the site selected being such that the people would not care to go and build their houses there, for want of water convenience. Where there is convenience and facility, Government should spend some money and acquire such sites for the sake of the poor people It was also necessary in his opinion to fix a time limit of say six months for the completion of acquisition proceedings in respect of village sites

Mr. B Oosman Khan of Bangalore contended that the reason why new villages are not springing up and extensions are not being formed expeditiously was because, at present, the power of acquisition of lands rests with the Deputy Commissioner The duties of the Deputy Commissioner are so onerous that he cannot himself attend to all this work but he has to depute some one of his subordinates to attend to the work, which causes much delay and inconvenience to the people It would therefore be better to delegate this power to the President of the District Board

Mr C B Gopala Rao of Kolar supported Mr Oosman khan in the opinion that the power of acquisition of village sites should be transferred from the Deputy Commissioner to the President of the District Board

Mr C Narasimhiah of Mysore instanced a case in which acquisition proceedings in respect of a land in a village in Heggadadevankote Taluk were pending disposal since the year 1903 and added that, if any improvement was to be expected in this respect, it was absolutely necessary to form some fund for meeting the cost of

of acquisition in the first instance and crediting the sale proceeds of sites to that fund It was also necessary to see that acquisition proceedings were completed within a period of say six months if the villagers were to take sustained interest in the work

Mr. Ananda Rao Sirsi, President, Bangalore City Municipality pointed out that delay in acquisition was very often due not to departmental laches but to the unwillingness of the villagers themselves to agree to the ~~xxxxxx~~ site selected for them

Mr. Yegnanarayana Iyer Deputy Director of Agriculture suggested the desirability of village panchayets being given power to select sites for the extension of villages

Mr S Hiriannaiya, Deputy Commissioner of Kolar was of opinion that the selection of a site for a new village was an important matter and could not be completely left to the unfettered discretion of the villagers There were instances where good sites had been selected by Government but people had refused to go and build houses there and preferred to select a site which was water logged and most unsuited for human dwelling Of course there were difficulties in connection with the compensation of lands to be acquired for these purposes, and heavy compensation had to be paid in the case of lands situated very near the villages but after all, the money realised by sale of these sites was not even one quarter of the compensation paid As regards the inordinate delay in the disposal of these cases, it must be admitted that such delays are not likely to be minimised by transferring the power to the District Board It was in his opinion necessary that the responsibility should rest in one department only i e., the Revenue Department and there was no necessity to refer such cases to the Sanitary Department As land was the property of Government, its disposal should rest with the representatives of Government

Government and it was not desirable to transfer such power to the District Board.

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao of Chikmagalur thought that there was no necessity to consult either the Revenue Department or the Sanitary Department for the selection of a site as the common sense of the villagers might be relied upon in the matter of the selection of a site for their village

~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible] Krishna Sastry~~ of Krishnarajpet thought that the disposal of cases of acquisition of village sites might be accelerated if a statement showing the progress made in the disposal of such applications was prescribed for submission every month

Mr S. Venkatasaiya of Hassan saw no reason why Government should be approached for sanctioning the acquisition in such cases and thought it expedient for Government to delegate such power to the local officers

Mr A.K. Pani, Director of Public Health Institute thought it very important to insist upon the Sanitary Commissioner being consulted regarding the selection of a site for the extension of the village

XI It was then resolved that, the procedure for the acquisition of land for the formation of new villages and the extension of the existing ones be simplified and the Deputy Commission empowered to sanction such acquisitions on their own authorit subject to such limitations as the Government may prescribe

Maintenance of Avenue Trees

The President suggested that the question of maintenance of avenue trees would be very much simplified if such maintenance could be transferred to Village Panchayets He accordingly invited the opinion of the Conference as to whether the maintenance of these trees both on District fund

fund roads and Provincial roads may be transferred to the said Panchayets

Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar, of Anekal pointed out that mos of the avenue trees were planted by ryots and not by Government agency and yet prosecutions were conducted for cutting branches or felling trees belonging to them as if the trees belonged to Government If Government could find funds for the maintenance of avenue trees, there could be no difficulty in looking after this work

Mr. C. Vasudeva Rao of Chikmagalur also thought that it was very necessary that funds should be provided for this purpose as it would not be possible to ask the ryots to undertake the work unless there was some inducement in the shape of money

The Chief Engineer for roads and buildings pointed out that it was not possible to find funds for this purpose as there was no separate allotment for this work and added that if any funds are to be spared for this work, the work of District fund roads would suffer a great deal

Mr. H.Venkataramiah of Tumkur was of opinion that it would not be possible for the District Board to induce the villagers to take up the work of maintenance of avenue trees as in some cases there were no villages at all for distances of about 10 miles

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurthy Rao of Bangalore was again the work of maintenance of avenue trees being transferred to Village Panchayets as they cannot be expected to undertake the work unless some funds were placed at their disposal He referred to the depredations caused by gos in respect of avenue trees and suggested some remedical action being taken for the prevention of such depredations

Mr. S. Hirfannaiya Deputy Commissioner of Kolar District stated that in his opinion the proper agency to look after the preservation and maintenance of avenue trees within its jurisdiction was the village panchayet

Mr. Qosman Khan of Bangalore thought that if the amarai of the trees standing on the roads belonging to the the District Board should go to the District Board, the Village Panchayet will have no objection to undertake the work of maintaining the trees

The President thought that it would not be fair to deprive the owners of road side trees of the right which they have been enjoying for long

Mr. Vema Reddy of Malur was of the opinion tha t the present practice might be continued in respect of the maintenance of avenue trees and no change was called for

The question having been put to the vote, a majority of the members were in favour of passing the following resolution on the subject

XII That the maintenance of avenue trees on Provincial as well as District Fund roads be entrusted to the District Boards, subject to the existing rights of private persons and that the Engineering Department be requested to pay to the Board the amount they are spending upon the maintenance of avenue trees on Provincial roads

Juridiction of Taluk Boards with reference to Taluk and Sub Division Areas

The President invited the opinion of the members as to the necessity or otherwise for an intermediary Board between the District Board and the Village Panchayet

Mr. Natesa Mudaliar of French Rocks pleaded for the continuance of Taluk Boards and for their being presided over by Revenue Officers

Mr. B. Srinivasa Iyengar of Anekal, Mr. Oosman Khan of Bangalore and Mr. Vema Reddy of Malur also pleaded for the continuance of Taluk Boards

Mr. Krishnamurthachar of Mulbagal advocated the formation of Sub Division Boards as in Madras as in his opinion the existing Taluk Board should not be expected to accomplish any substantital work of a useful nature since a major portion of its funds was being used up for establishment charges and travelling allowances.

Mr. B. Oosman Khan of Bangalore stated that he was not quite convinced that any substantial saving would result if Taluk Boards were abolished as their work would then have to be transferred to District Boards whose staff would require to be strengthened for the purpose He agreed with the previous speaker regarding the amount spent on account of travelling allowance of members of Taluk Boards and thought that the rules which were passed several years ago required revision

Mr. B. Srinivasa Iyengar of Anekal was strongly in favour of the continuance of Taluk Boards as it was not possible for the District Board to carry on the work of the several Boards single handed. He added that so far as he was able to judge, Sub Division Boards were not working satisfactorily in British India

Mr. H. Venkataramiah of Tumkur was also in favour of the continuance of Taluk Boards as he thought that it would be impossible for the District Board to manage all the Panchayets and supervise all their work

Mr. K. Chandy the Revenue Commissioner next spoke clearing some misapprehension on the subject which seemed to prevail among the previous speakers regarding the power exercised by each of the Boards They seemed to think that the Village Panchayet was subordinate to the Taluk Board and the Taluk Board was in turn subordinate to the Distr

District Board. It w stake to conceive it in that light. The District Board was responsible for its own work, while the Taluk Board and the Village Panchayet were each responsible for its respective work. Each had its own responsibility and its own autonomy This should be the principle on which these bodies should work. T he general sense of the house being in favour of the re-
Pill tention of the Taluk Boards It was resolved that the Taluk Boards need not be abolished and that there is no necessity for the Sub Division Boards.

Principle of Direct Election to District Boards

Mr. H. Venkataramaiya of Tumkur, while being in favour of direct election of members to District Boards, was at the same time for safe guarding the interests of the Taluk Boards on the District Board In his opinion, the representative from a Taluk Board can better represent things relating to that Board than a representative who comes to the District Board by primary election He therefore considered it desirable to have one representative from the Taluk Board by direct election and the other by election by members of the Taluk Board

Mr B. Srinivasa Iyengar of Anekal was also of the same opinion and thought that one representative might come in by direct election and the other by indirect election through the Taluk Board

Mr. S. Srikantiah of Bangalore thought that the men coming from Taluk Boards were to a great degree trained men with some experience and it would therefore be better to have such men in the District Boards than the men who have had no experience or training of any kind He accordingly advocated the desirability of members of the Taluk Board alone standing for election to the District Board

Mr D. Venkatesiah

Mr. D. Venkatesiah of Kolar stated that, in his opinion primary election to the District Boards was absolutely necessary. This practice had been in existence in the Madras Presidency and he did not think there could be any objection for such election He added that the president and Vice President of the Taluk Boards may be permitted to become ex-officio members of District Boards

Mr. Osman Khan of Bangalore thought that it would be better if only the members of the Taluk Board stood for election to the District Board as there was no use in nominating men who have had no experience of the work and details connected with the Taluk administration

Mr. Vema Reddy of Malur was of the opinion that every one should have the privilege of being elected to the District Board without restriction. If one was not a member of the Taluk Board, it did not mean that he should not be a member of District Board. He therefore thought it would be better if primary election was enforced

Mr. Purushottam Anandagiri Gosai of Mysore also advocate the principle of primary election and was against restricting the representation on District Boards to members of Taluk Boards only

Mr. Shama Sastry of Maddagiri was against the principle of direct election as he thought it would not be possible to get experienced men by that mode of election

Mr C. Subba Rao of Shimoga, Mr S Venkatesaiya and Mr H. V. Rangaswamy of Hassan all spoke in favour of partly of direct election and partly of indirect election through the Taluk Boards.

Mr. B. V. Ramaswami Chetty of Bangalore, strongly advocated the principle of direct election as he thought that the man who is elected by the will of a majority of the people could be expected to represent their interests much better than others.

The President summarised the discussions and put the question to the vote with the following result -

1. Principle of Direct election
   For. 50. Against Nil

2. Partial direct election versus total direct election.
   Votes 30 (for total direct election)
   47 for partial direct election

3. Non-official President or Vice President of the Taluk Board to be ex-officio member of the District Board
   For 32 Against 43 Lost

The following Resolutions were accordingly passed on the subject.-

XIV. That the principle of direct election to the District Boards should be introduced and that, for the present, each Taluk be represented by two members on the District Board, one elected by the general body of voters in the Taluk and the other by the members of the Taluk Boar

XV That it is not desirable to appoint non-official Presidents or Vice Presidents of Taluk Boards ex Officio members of the District Board

Whether representation of Municipalities on District Boards is Necessary

The question was put to the vote with the following result -

(i) Representation of Town & Minor Municipalities on District Boards

Not necessary	51
Necessary	Nil

(ii) Representation of City Municipalities on District Boards -

Not necessary	60
Necessary	1

It was accordingly resolved that it is not necessary to have representatives of Municipal Councils including City Municipal Councils, on District Boards.

Revision of the Maxima and Minima of the strength of District Boards etc.

The previous resolution regarding the non representation of Town Municipalities on District Boards disposes o this subject

Extension of franchise to women

Discussion was invited on the point as to whether franchise qualification (property or otherwise) for women should be the same as in the case of men

Mr. H. Rangaswami Iyengar of Mysore and Mr C. Vasudeva Rao of Chikmagalur urged that property qualification should not be taken into consideration in the case of women as they were not expected to own properties but that educational qualification alone may be taken into consideration.

Mr. Purushotham Anandagiri Gosai of Mysore pleaded that, in the case of women, the property owned by their husbands might be taken into account as otherwise it would be very difficult for women to get election

Mr. B.V. Ramaswami Chetty of Bangalore contended that it was not right to take into consideration the property owned by the husband or father of the woman who stands for election," and added that the rule must be the same both for men as well as for women

Mr Vena Reddy of Malur expressed the fear that, if the same property qualification was prescribed for women as in the case of men, it may not be possible for any women at all to stand for election as it would have the effect of imposing an impossible condition and defeat the

the very object of woman franchise. He therefore pleaded for some concession in the case of women

Mr. R. Gopalaswamy Iyer of Bangalore also pleaded for some concession in the case of women. He urged that, as in the case of men who have passed the B.A., examination, no property qualification is insisted upon when they stand for election, similarly in the case of women to begin with it may be laid down that the passing of at least the Lower Secondary examination should entitle a woman to become eligible for election to local bodies. He also pleaded for ladies' associations being enfranchised

Mr. K. H. Ramaiya Offg. Registrar of Co-operative Societies also pleaded for the lowering of educational qualifications in the case of women standing for election

The proposition whether property qualification should be the same both for men and women was put to vote and 51 were in favour of it, and only 13 against It was accordingly resolved

That the franchise be extended to women in the case of elections to Municipal Councils and Local Boards including Village Panchayets on the basis of the same qualifications as are adopted for male voters.

Modification of franchise qualification for the various Boards

Mr. Venkatesaiya of Chamarajanagar pleaded for reduction in the standard of franchise qualifications in the case of Municipalities

Mr. T. Krishna Rao of Mysore pleaded for franchise qualification being lowered in the case of City Municipalities while Mr. Abbas Khan of Bangalore contended that the property qualification prescribed for election to the Town Municipal Councils must be the same as in the case of City Municipal Councils

Mr. D Venkatesaiya of Kolar pleaded for Universal franchise, all men between the ages of 21 and 60 being made eligible for election. irrespective of any other qualifications they may possess

The proposition viz., whether property qualification should be the same both for city and town Municipal Councils, was put to vote. 23 were for and 29 against the proposition, and it was lost

Mr. Malali Venkataramaiya pleaded that the qualification for election to the Taluk Boards must be lowered.

Mr. Ananthiah Chetty of Chitaldrug urged that for Taluk Boards the house tax of Rs. 5 was too much, as we can rarely find men living in houses worth Rs. 1,000 in villages and there would be chance for very few to stand for election

Mr. Selva Pillai of Gorur, Hassan District was for increasing the house tax but lowering land assessment to Rs. 50

Mr. Natesa Mudaliar of French Rocks pleaded that the payment of land assessment of Rs. 25 be prescribed for the taluk board

The President then suggested that if the same qualifications as have been in force in the case of elections to the Representative Assembly are introduced in the case of elections to the Taluk Board also, there would be great facility for preparing a common voter's list for both the Representative Assembly and the Taluk Board

It was resolved

XVII That while no change is necessary in the franchise qualifications prescribed for elections to the Municipal Councils, the franchise qualifications prescribed for Representative -- Assembly elections be adopted for elections to the Taluk Boards

Appointment of a separate Commissioner of Local Self Government.

The President explained the necessity for the appointment of a separate Commissioner or Board of Local Self Government for the proper co-ordination of the work of sever branches of Municipal and Local Boards administration, for the systematic inspection of offices and for the checking of accounts. He added that, from his experience as Member in charge of the Local Self Government portfolio, he was convinced that such systematic inspection of local bodies was an imperative necessity and that the appointment of a separate officer for the purpose was quite essential as a Member of Government could not be expected to have the necessary time at his command amidst his multifarious duties to attend to the frequent inspection of the various local bodies in the State

Mr. Natesa Mudaliar of French Rocks pointed out that in Hyderabad and some other places there was a non-official agency to supervise the work of local bodies and added that Members of Government who have other institutions to inspect during their tours could not be expected to pay adequate attention to the inspection of local bodies He therefore suggested the desirability of appointing a separate Member of Government exclusively for local self Government work so that he may supervise the working of local bodies frequently and co-ordinate the work of several branches of administration He thought an Advisory Board was of no use

Mr H. Rangaswami Iyengar of Mysore stated that since it was the desire of the Government to give more powers to local bodies and make them responsible in all matters concerning their administration, it was not desirable to have an officer of Government to supervise these bodies By doing so, the very object with which the Local Self Government Scheme was started would be defeated. It would be enough

Member of Government in charge of the Local Self

Local Self Government portfolio inspected the local bodies occassionally and gave advice for rectifying their defects

Mr. H. Krishna Sastry of Krishnarajpet stated that he was not convinced of the necessity for the appointment of a Commissioner for the inspection of local bodies, particularly as it was not clear what exactly his functions were. Besides, the appointment of a Commissioner was quite out of the question in the existing state of financial stringency It was in his opinion better for Government to train non-officials in Local Self Government work and, for the present, it was enough if the Member of Council in charge of the Local Self Government portfolio looked after the work

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~~Local Self Government portfolio looked after the work.~~

Mr R. Rangaswami Iyengar of Mysore thought that the Taluk Boards and Panchayets in Mysore were yet in a stage of infancy and lacked uniformity and the District Boards whose duties and responsibilities were on the increase could not be expected to scrutinise their work Similarly, the Member in charge of the Local Self Government portfolio could not be expected to pay undivided attention to problems of Municipal reform as he had other departments to look after. It was therefore essential in his opinion that there should be a separate commissioner of Local Self Government in order to devote his whole time to Municipal problems. In Madras there was a Special Officer of the grade of Collector known as the Registrar General of Panchayets to efficiently supervise the work of Local Bodies. He frequently toured and inspected the Panchayets but did not interfere with the internal working of these bodies. He was paid partly from State funds and partly from the funds of local bodies and it is understood that his appointment is serving a useful purpose.

Mr. B. Srinivasa Iyengar of Anekal was against the proposal for more reasons than one Firstly there were non-official Presidents andVice Presidents to look after the affairs of Municipalities and Local Boards and they would resent the interference of an outside officer Secondly, it was difficult for local bodies to meet the pay of this officer as their resources were already slender Thirdly, a single officer cannot be expected to supervise the working of the very large number of village panchayets, minor and twon Municipalities and Taluk and District Boards There was therefore no necessity for a separate Commissioner to supervise the working of local bodies On the other hand, there was great need for strengthening the audit staff and for placing Municipal accounts on a more tic footing There was no need for an intermediary

agency between Government and the Local Bodies. It was enough if the Member of Council in charge of the Local Self Government portfolio scrutinised the work of these bodies.

The President pointed out that even if the Audit Staff was strengthened, there was still necessity for some outside agency to control the work of auditors. Otherwise there would be room for serious abuses.

Mr C. Srinivasa Rao of Chikmagalur pleaded for the appointment of two Commissioners for the whole State instead of one, as there was at present no effective check on the working of the local bodies and it was essential that there should be some agency to tour over the State and take steps to remedy defects noticed in the working of those bodies.

Mr. S. Venkatesaiya of Hassan thought that the appointment of a separate Commissioner was not liekly to serve a useful purpose as such an appointment was likely to have the effect of making the Deputy Commissioners feel that they had no longer any responsibility in respect of the working of local bodies A better plan would be to invest Deputy Commissioners with larger powers of control and supervision over local bodies and make them responsible for the efficiency of Municipal administration, and give them appellate powers as well A separate officer cannot be expected to manage a large area whereas, if enhanced powers are given to Deputy Commissioners of Districts, the work is likely to be easily managed and better controlled in-as-much as they will have experience of local conditions and a smaller jurisdiction in which to work, in addition to their other duties

Mr. Oosman Khan of Bangalore thought that there was a clear necessity for the appointment of an outside agency, such as a Commissioner, to act between the Government and

and the Local Bodies The function of auditors was confined to the checking of accounts. This was done once in 7 or 8 months but it did not secure effective supervision over the work of local bodies. If the appointment of a separate Commissioner was not likely to be sanctioned, it was very necessary that the powers of the Deputy Commissioners at least should be enhanced in order to enable them to hear appeals against the orders of Local bodies and also to frequently scrutinise their work.

Mr. B.V Ramaswami Chetty, of Bangalore thought that the appointment of a separate Commissioner was superfluous at present since it would entail considerable expenditure The appointment might be made some time later, if necessary

Mr Abbas Khan of Bangalore thought that a case had been made out for the appointment of a separate Commissioner to supervise the work of local bodies, as it was not possible at present to find out whether the resolutions passed by the local bodies were given effect to or not and also whether the orders of Government passed from time to time were duly carried out

Mr. Chennakesavaiya of Chitaldrug and Kannick Krishnamurthi Rao of Bangalore also pleaded for the appointment of a Commissioner as they were both convinced of the necessity of such an appointment

Mr D Venkatesaiya of Kolar thought it in-advisable to create the appointment of a separate Commissioner for Local Self Government as there would then be a sort of triangular contest for powers between that officer, the Deputy Commissioner and the President of the District Board It was therefore advisable to invest the Deputy Commissioners with enhanced powers of supervision &c .

The President then brought the discussions to a close and put the various issues involved to the vote. 48 voted for and 23 against the proposition that it was desirable to enhance the powers of Deputy Commissioners in respect of the supervision of local bodies. The next proposition whether there should be a separate Commissioner of local Self Government was put to vote and declared lost only 15 voting for and 50 against

The third proposition whether there should be a separate Member of Council with the portfolio of Local Self Government was carried by a large majority. 43 being in favour of the proposition and 5 against

XX. It was resolved that it is necessary to appoint a Member of Council to be exclusively in charge of the Local Self Government Portfolio so that he may tour frequently, inspect the offices and work of local bodies and the working of the laws and regulations and adopt suitable measures for rectifying the defects, if any, in the working of the Local Self Government Scheme

The subject was re-opened the next day when the President expressed regret at having had to reopen the discussion regarding the powers of supervision and appeal proposed to be given to Deputy Commissioners of Districts as he thought that in so far as the powers of appeal were concerned there was some difficulty There was no indication by the house as to what orders of the Presidents of Local Boards should be subject to appeal to Deputy Commissioners but if such powers were to be given, the authority of the Presidents of the Boards would be reduced to a nullity and they would entirely become the executive subordinates of the Deputy Commissioner This was not the intention of the Local Self Government Scheme, the intention being that the local bodies should exercise all the powers without any interference on the part of any outside agency That being so, the powers of appeal conferred on Deputy Commissioners

would mean a thorough interference with the internal administration of the Boards. Mr. Usman Khan proposed that appellate powers should be granted to Deputy Commissioners of Districts over the orders of Presidents of District Boards. The only way in which this could be done was by granting the power of revision to Deputy Commissioners Under the Madras Act, Collectors had the power to call for records in any case to examine them and if they were satisfied that a wrong had been done, to submit the records for the orders of Government. That would be the proper check that could be exercised on the work of the Boards

Mr. B. Usman Khan of Bangalore concurred in the view put forward by the President about the grant to the Deputy Commissioner of powers of revision instead of those of appeal and the proposal met with the approval of all the Members.

XIX. It was resolved that as it is necessary to provide for inspection of offices of Local bodies and for speedy remedy to aggrieved parties the Deputy Commissioner of the District, in addition to the powers now vested in him, be authorised to inspect the offices of local bodies and call for the records of any case either of his own motion or on the application of an aggrieved party and if satisfied that the order or proceedings of the Board or its executive is wrong or contrary to law, submit the records of the case with his opinion to Government for such orders as they may deem fit to pass in the matter

Enterta nt of a separate Engineering ablishment for Local Bodies

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao of Chikmagalur pleaded for a separate Engineering establishment for the Kadur District as complaints were rife about the state of the roads in th District although they were spending a sum of Rs.70,000/- for their maintenance. Mr. H. Rangaswamy Iyengar stated that the same arguments would apply to the Mysore District also.

Mr. C. Subba Rao of Shimoga thought that the 17½ per cent contribution paid to the public works department for the execution of repairs to roads might well be utilised for the employment of a separate Engineering Establishment to ensure that the roads were properly maintained and repaired.

Mr. Vema Reddy of Malur also pleaded for the entertainment of a separate Engineering Establishment for Local Boards as the Boards were at present kept utterly in the dark as to the progress of Local Fund Works executed by the Public Works Department

Mr. H. Krishna Sastry of Krishnarajpet also pleaded f the entertainment of a separate Engineering Establisnment for local boards and so also Mr B. Oosman Khan of Bangalor

But Mr. Purushottam Anandagiri Gosai of Mysore and Messrs. Abbas Khan and B. K. Garudachar of Bangalore spoke against the proposal Mr Gosai thought that the Public Works Department might well be trusted to look after Local Fund Works with care in return for the 17½ contribution levied by them for the purpose

Mr. Garudachar thought that in the interests of the proper execution of works, it would be better to entrust them to the Public Works Department as heretofore as the District Boards cannot be expected to find suitable

suita o ractors to work under them in the same way as the Pu c rks Department can find them by holding out prospe getting them contracts of other works

Mr. Abbas Khan thought that the Public Works Department with its staff of Assistant Engineers and Executive Engineers could better undertake the repair and construction of roads than the District Boards with the small grant at their disposal. Besides, the Presidents of District Boards who were not technical men could not be expected to supervise the work of the Engineering -- Establishment.

Mr. C. B. Gopala Rao of Kolar pleaded for a separate Engineering Establishment for Local Boards and suggested that in the interests of efficiency, a 20 per cent contribution might be set apart for establishment

Mr Girimaji Rao of Kolar stated that he had plead for separate Engineering Establishment for Local Boards four years ago but had changed his opinion now He was for the continuance of the existing arrangement by which the Public Works Department looked after Local Fund Works but would suggest the Government waiving the 17½ per cen contribution payable by Local Boards for such works

Mr. K. R. Seshachar, the officiating Chief Engineer for Road and Buildings, expressed the opinion that, in the interests of the Local Fund Works themselves, it was better they were looked after by the Public Works Department as heretofore instead of being transferred to a separate establishment as the District Board had no experience of road construction or repair work The appointment of a separate engineering establishment was costly and the finance of the District Board did not permi of the same Besides one Assistant Engineer cannot cope with the work, but in the case of the Public Works Department, it has a large staff with greater experience of the

the work. The arrangement of getting repairs done by the Public Works Department was more economical and at the same time the work was more satisfactorily carried out If the Local Fund roads were in spite of all this transferred to a separate Engineering Establishment, they were sure to come back to the Public Works Department later on in a ruinous state.

Mr. Abdur Rahiman of Bangalore thought that if the lic Works Department could supply the District Board time to time with information as to the progress the works on hand, no change in the present procedure was called for. At present bills were received long after the completion of the work and this rendered inspection difficult. It was necessary that final bills should be sent immediately after the completion of the work to enable the District Board to inspect the work and the bill for payment. The appointment of a separate Engineering establishment under the District Board was however one that deserved to be brought into force and tried. The contribution made by the District Board to the Public Works Department amounts to a large figures and this may be usefully utilised in maintaining a separate engineering establishment

Mr R. Gopalasami Iyer of Bangalore pleaded for a separate Engineering establishment for the District Board as in Madras while Mr S Venkatesaiya of Hassan was against the proposal as he thought that the Public Works Department with its large staff could be expected to look after the works in a better manner than the limited establishment that could be appointed under the District Board.

Mr. S. Hiriannaiya Deputy Commissioner of Kolar, was of opinion that a separate Engineering Establishment was necessary for District Boards at least in the case of bigger Districts where the extent of the works

works justified the same. Even then, it would be desirable for the District Boards to entrust specially technical works to the Public Works Department itself.

Mr. H. Venkataramaiya of Tumkur urged for a separate Engineering Establishment for the Tumkur District as the 17½ per cent of contribution on works in the District amounted to Rs. 18,000/- which would be more than ample for meeting the cost of establishment

The President in summarising the discussion on the subject stated that Government would be only too glad to view with sympathy and favour the proposal of a separate Engineering Establishment for District Boards The principle that every District Board should be a self contained unit, as far as possible, with a separate engineering establishment, medical establishment, sanitary establishment and so on under its control was a well recognised one worthy of adoption as far as the resources of District Board permitted. As the question was however one of some importance, it was necessary that all aspects of it should be taken into consideration before Government passed final orders on the same It was therefore desirable that a special Committee should be appointed for each District to go into the question fully and submit recommendations to the District Board. On receipt of a resolution on the subject from Each District Board, Government can pass final orders after due consideration

XXI It was accordingly resolved that a small Committee consisting of the Deputy Commissioner, the President, the Vice President and a few non-official Members of the District Board, the Chief Engineer for Roads, and the Executive Engineer of the District be appointed to consider the practicability of each District Board having its own Engineering staff, with due regard to economy and efficiency taking into account the amount which the District Board can spare annually for original works

and repairs, the amount of contribution now paid to the Public Works Department for establishment charges and tools and plant and the expenditure which the maintenance of a separate Engineering staff will involve and that the resolution of the District Board on the recommendation of the Committee be submitted to Government for consideration

Relationship of local administration with the Medical and Sanitary Service

In opening the discussion on the subject, the President observed that the non-official Presidents and Vice-Presidents of Local bodies liked to have control over the Sanitary staff But the Sanitary Commissioner did not approve of it The Sub Assistant Surgeons and the Medical establishment including the midwives were appointed by the Senior Surgeon. The District Boards and Municipalities, while they made contribution to the expenditure on establishment had absolutely no control in the matter of their appointment It was therefore desirable to arrive at a scheme by which some control might be secured to the local bodies over the medical and sanitary staff, the power of appointment being in the hands of the respective heads of Departments

Mr. B Srinivasa Iyengar of Anekal thought it desirable to entrust the local bodies with greater powers of control over the Sanitary and medical staff, as according to the existing arrangements, it was not possible for local bodies to get suitable men for their service without loss of time. As an instance in point, he stated that there was no midwife in the Anekal Municipality for about a year although the Municipality paid its quota of expenditure

Mr. C Srinivasa Rao of Chikmagalur thought that the present arrangements were satisfactory and it was better to leave the recruitment of the medical staff and

and Sanitary staff to the Heads of Departments concerned as they might be expected to scrutinise their work much better than the Presidents of Local bodies could be expected to do.

Mr. Vema Reddy of Malur supported the previous speaker in the view that it was better if the recruitment of men lay in the hands of the Heads of Departments conderned.

The President thought that the present position needed some modification in view of the further devolution of powers on local bodies, contemplated by Government. It was their object to make the local bodies autonomous institutions in course of time and if as independent bodies they have to perform the function efficiently, it was desirable that some control over the staff working under the boards and councils should be secured to them. The District Boards were answerable for Public Health and Medical relief and unless they were vested with sufficient powers as to the appointment of necessary staff &c , and had some voice in controlling and punishing them, they could not be expected to discharge their portion of the work to satisfaction

Mr. S Hiriannaiya Deputy Commissioner of Kolar, thought that the disciplinary control over the staff may rest with the Municipal Councils and the technical control with the Departmental officers

Mr. Purushottam Anandagiri Gosai was for investing Presidents of Municipal Councils and Local Boards with powers of appointing, controlling and punishing the staff, as he thought that any other arrangement was not likely to work well

Mr Ananda Rao Sirsi President of the City Municipal Council, Bangalore, pleaded for the administrative control over the various services under the local bodies ting in the respective Presidents of those bodies

He thought ~~that technical~~ that technical supervision over the medical and sanitary men was absolutely necessary and the opinion of the departmental head should be taken into the case of their removal or transfer but the power of control must rest with the President.

In the case of midwives, the local bodies wrote to the Senior Surgeon if any vacancy fell and he made the appointments though they were paid for by the local bodies. If they were negligent in their work, it was the local bodies that find them.

Mr Malali Venkataramaiya thought that the Medical and Sanitary men must be under the control of the Head of the Department, as the Presidents of Local Bodies were not technical men and cannot understand whether they were attending to their duties properly or give them any instructions

The President called upon the Sanitary Commissioner to speak on the subject

Dr. H. B. Mylvaganam spoke as follows -

Now there are two questions, one relating to the Medical Department and the other relating to the Sanitary Department I shall first take the Sanitary Department

I have been working as Sanitary Commissioner for the last eight or nine months and I had the pleasure of visiting almost all the municipal towns and taluk head-quarters, and from the inspections I have made I must say that the present arrangement is entirely unsatisfactory Please excuse me for being open. Open criticism is always helpful for clear understanding As Sanitary Commissioner, I am merely an advisory head My directions are to be carried out How far they are carried out is entirely left for you to decide as members of the taluk boards and municipal councils I have no control over the

the Sanitary Inspectors. They are directly under District Boards and municipalities. Once a week they send me a programme of work done by them during the week and I pass my remarks. Beyond that I have no control. I cannot fine them or transfer them or dismiss them. When I went to Bagepalli last time, I found there was a Sanitary Inspector who had no diary. He was on leave for 15 days When I asked the President of the Taluk Board, whether leave was given to the Sanitary Inspector, he altogether denied it. Then I recommended him to the President of the District Board, Kolar, for dismissal He is not also a qualified man. No action has been taken on this till now I wish to know what effect my inspection will have, if I have no control over them In Chintamani, there was an Inspector who was very negligent in his duty and I wrote about him to the President of the District Board, and the result of action taken has not been communicated to me. So, my disciplinary control over them is entirely lost

If you want to have real sanitary work in Mysore, which is not as big as Madras or Bombay, everything must be decentralised. Not that I am very anxious to have my powers extended, but judging from the fact that there is no substantital work done in sanitation, unless power is given to the Sanitary Commissioner, it is impossible that any work could be carried on The District Boards or the Municipal Councils take their own time, because local influence might be brought to bear upon them So far as the Sanitary Department is concerned, it is absolutely necessary that the power should be given to one, that is, the head of the Department Otherwise it is merely a farce. For sanitary work you are not competent because you are lay men

Of course you are paying for the service, but that is a different thing. So long as the work is being done

done what do you care? If the Sanitary Inspector is to look after the planting of avenue trees and other such works, how can he go on with sanitary matters?

Hitherto District Medical Officers were also Sanitary officers. Now an order has been passed appointing Chief Sanitary Inspectors. When the Medical Officers were in charge, they were given only Rs 50 for the extra work. Under the retrenchment scheme, the Chief Sanitary Inspector has been given Rs. 100-150 The District Medical Officers being graduates could have given better advice. Now they are taken away from the sanitation charge. Those who are in the Municipalities have to look to the drainage and also conservancy and they have to look to the general health of the taluk Why should the District Medical Officers do these works which legitimately belong to the Sanitary Inspector?

This is the position now You have taken away entirely the control of the Sanitary Commissioner What about the sanitation of the different municipalities? It is about 40 years since the Municipal Councils were introduced What have they done during these 40 years? Probably absolutely very little Several of the Municipalities have no drainage No drainage scheme prepared at all Certainly they have no money at their disposal, but they should not neglect drainage There are different ways of making them do their work If a scheme is prepared, work may be done little by little, section by section as funds permit, until the work is completed This is a great drawback and the District Boards are very backward in these respects When I go once a year and inspect places and make a report, it ends there, and no further progress will be made.

Now the Sanitary Inspectors have to do vaccination work. They have also to look after vital statistics

The compilation of vital statistics is entirely unsatisfactory. We do not get legitimate and correct data to compile them. It is being done by the Patel and it goes to the Taluk Office. No man seems to be entirely responsible for it. I think it is necessary for the accurate compilation of vital statistics that the responsibility should rest on one man Now that the Deputy Inspectors of Vaccination are also taken away, the duty of vaccinating falls on the taluk Sanitary Inspector. How far it will be successful, we cannot say. I do not wish to offer any criticism on it We will wait and see. There are so many drawbacks in different ways.

It is the District Medical Officer who is to be responsible for the work of the sub assistant surgeon and midwife. If these men are placed under the contro of the President of the District Board, what power can the Senior Surgeon have over them and how can the work go on under the new system? The District Medical Officer, when he goes on tour inspects hospitals and tells how much medicine has been used, whether operations required etc. How can this work be done by your President or Vice President? There are reports about Sub Assistant Surgeons being unpopular, midwife being negligent and so on. How to exercise control over them? If I have the power I can reduce them or transfer them to some suitable place This applies to the case of compounders also. If the Presidents of the District Boards are the masters of the situation, what can the Senior Surgeon do? It is not that I am anxious to take away the power from you I tell all this for the good of the State. Now I am only a singing machine These are the difficulties that I want to point out

The President made the following observations he subject

One or two points require explanation. Formerly when the Sanitary Inspectors were appointed, they were entirely under the control of the Sanitary Commissioner. Later on Sanitary Inspectors were appointed for Municipalities and Taluk Boards. It so happens that in many Municipalities like Mandya, the Sanitary Inspector has not sufficient work to do in sanitary matters alone. Since they were idling away their time and the local body was paying them, it was thought but right that the local body should be able to take full amount of work for the money paid. Therefore the Deputy Commissioners, when they were Presidents of District Boards deputed the Sanitary Inspectors for the work of collection etc. Then the Sanitary Commissioner came in the way and said that the Sanitary Inspector should be employed solely on sanitary work Then the local bodies protested and said he was a man paid by them and so they would employ him to the fullest extent possible. Then the conflict arose between the Sanitary Commissioner and the local bodies The Medical Officer also interferred saying that the Sanitary Inspector should follow him to the camp just he is now going with the Amildar That was the situation Then Government interfered and said that since the local bodies were paying them fully and the Government were not contributing anything towards their pay, they had every right to appoint dismiss or suspend them So by the mere fact that they are called Sanitary Inspectors, it is not intended that they should do purely sanitary work So far as District and Taluk Boards are concerned, the sanitary work they have to perform will almost be nil Because that depends entirely upon the state of the finances of the Boards which is not in a flourishing condition In the first place, we have to see whether it is possible to employ them entirely upon sanitary work Secondly I suppose it will be uneconomical to allow their energies to go to waste. Therefore the Taluk Board must have full

full power to employ them in the way best suited for the purposes of the Board. If they are made subodinate to the Sanitary Commissioner, he will say that the men should only be employed for sanitary work. That is the point we will have to consider in passing this resolution.

As regards the second point i.e. about the control over the medical subordinates, the technical control rests with the offiwer of Government. But unfortunately whatever it may be, the Local Boards Regulation has been passed and it is laid down that the District Boards are responsible for the public health and medical relief It naturally follows therefore that as the body that pays is held responsible to the Government, it must have at least some voice, if not full, in controlling its own staff and punishing them. Without these powers of discipline, I do not think that it is possible for any local body to get efficient work. If the control is to rest with other bodies, then I think it is unf ir to hold the local bodies, responsible in any way for the efficiency of the services I will therefore suggest that, since we are accustomed so long to a certain state of things, we must so adjust our relations with the Departments that there may not be a conflict between the departmental control and the authority of the District Board. I would therefore leave the power of appointment to the Head of the Department, but the power of control the power of transfer, of dismissal and everything to the local bodies If the power is misused, there will have to be provision to appeal to the higher departmental heads and if necessary a second appeal to Government

Mr. Zahiruddin Mecci Deputy Commissioner of Tumkur thought that the arguments advanced by the Senior Surgeon were right, from the technical point of view Though he may visit a place only once in 365 days he will be able to set right all the defects and irregu-

larities,

irregularities, and so he must have disciplinary powers '

The President pointed out that the Head of the Department should appoint his technical officer. But the powers of control should rest entirely with the President of the Board.

The Senior Surgeon stated that he would not agree to such a system.

The President said.------

There are two schemes placed before you One is "Full powers should rest with the departmental Head He a technical officer he is an expert and he is the man best qualified to judge the capacity of the subordinates, and therefore he must have not only the powers of appointment, but also powers of control, dismissal etc. He wants to jealously guard his rights" The second scheme is "he is a technical officer and he is an expert. He selects and sends a man We pay for the man from our funds or at least we contribute towards it. We are responsible for the public health, medical relief and all these things of the locality which have been assigned to us by law There fore we must have some control over his acts and conduct He may be a very good Surgeon or a very good physician, but he may be most unsympathetic In the opinion of the departmental officer he might be a very capable man but so far as people are concerned his value might be almost nil The District Board or the local authorities may say 'whatever may have been the qualifications of this man he is no good, because he had no power of doing good" So, it is the District Board that must judge whether the man is thoroughly efficient and whether he can perform his work well and whether he ha been able to give the benefit of his services to the people which he is expected to do These are the two schemes and we say that the local bodies must have some power of control over the man and he must

must not be one who would act against the wishes of people

Mr. S. Hiriannaiya, Deputy Commissioner of Kolar thought that, in his opinion, the technical officer cannot give sufficient attention, as the local people can No doubt he will have good knowledge. The Local Boards Regulation says that the District Board is responsible for public health and safety of people. So the powers of the technical officer can best be used in the capacity of an expert and not from the standpoint of view of authority In all matters of technical knowledge, the opinion of the Medical officer will be predominant, and if any infectious disease breaks out, he cannot say that the responsibility is not his

XXII It was finally resolved that no change in the existing practice regarding the appointment, punishment and transfer of Sanitary Inspectors is called for

XXIII That, as regards medical officers attached to Local Fund Dispensaries, their transfer if desired by the local body concerned should be given effect to, though their appointment, promotion and punishment may rest with the Senior Surgeon or the Government as the case may be

Recruitment and proppects of Local Fund and Municipal establishments and their correlation with the Revenue and other services.

The President explained that the prospects of these establishments were very much limited They cannot rise to higher appointments There were cases where men with high educational qualifications were denied promotion for want of scope, while men with lesser qualification got on better in other departments So, a qualified man who entered the Local Boards service suffers merely because it was his misfortune to enter this service The result that the President and Vice Presidents find it

it extremely difficult to find competent men for appointments

Mr. Purushottam Anandagiri Gosai of Mysore thought that it was necessary to arrange for the transfer of these officials from one local board to another. Or a separate service may be made for these. Now if any competent man entered this service, he can never have a change nor was there scope for him to improve his prospects there In the case of city municipalities, arrangements for transfer were necessary.

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurthy Rao of Bangalore thought that, if Municipal service was also treated as Government service in all respects, there would not be any difficulty in the matter. The power of transfer may be given to the Revenue Commissioner It was necessary that no official should hold the same post for more than 3 years as in the case of men of the taluk office

Mr. S Srikantaiya suggested that Amildars and Deput Commissioners might be given the power of appointing these officials. It will then be very easy to take men from the Revenue Department for the local boards and transfer men to that department whenever necessary

Mr. T. Krishna Rao of Mysore was of opinion that the power of patronage should necessarily rest with the Boards. If this was not done, men generally preferred to go to the general line of service

Mr. Abbas Khan of Bangalore, thought it was absolutely necessary that the Presidents and Vice Presidents of District Boards should have power of patronage in this respect. Otherwise they lose their prestige

Mr. S. Venkatesaiya of Hassan added that all that was required was to have men who would work properly and willingly. Unless good prospects and promotions were offered, it was not possible to get competent men If it is so arranged that local bodies may take a loan of the services of men in other government offices, there would be no trouble for them. The Deputy Commissioner might be made to fill up the vacancies that might occur hereafter

Mr. Zahiruddin Mecci, Deputy Commissioner of Tumkur thought that if the Deputy Commissioners were given the power of appointing officials for the local bodies also there would be no difficulty whatever If there was mutual understanding between the Deputy Commissioner and the Presidents of Local Bodies, every thing will go on smoothly The Deputy Commissioner can take back the man not required by the local body and give another man in his stead

Mr. Osman Khan of Bangalore was of opinion that it would be a better arrangement to leave the appointment of municipal officials in the hands of the Presidents and secure some control over them to the Deputy Commissioner also

The President pointed out that if a non-official President was appointed the Deputy Commissioner could not make the appointments

Mr.S Venkatesiah of Hassan thought that if the Deputy Commissioner was appointed Ex-Officio Member of the District Board and the power of patronage was vested in him then the whole difficulty would be solved

Mr. Natesa Mudaliar of French Rocks also thought that the Deputy Commissioners might be given the necessary powers of appointing the staff required by local bodies In his opinion all appointments up to a certain limit, say Rs. 50, may be filled up by the Municipal Council

itself, those carrying a higher pay being made by the Deputy Commissioners.

Mr. H. Krishna Sastry of Krishnarajpet thought that work in the Municipal office was of the same in nature as in the District Office and interchange of officials from the Municipal and Local Boards offices to the District office was desirable in the interests of efficiency District Boards and Taluk Boards should also agree to interchange officials between them Such a course would ensure greater efficiency in the discharge of work If necessary a committee may be appointed to consider this question

The President suggested that the transfer of all officials working in the Municipality, after a period of 3 years must be rendered obligatory A list of such officials might be sent to the Member of Council in sole charge of local Self Government or the Commissioner, whoever may be appointed by the Government later on Such officer will scrutinise the lists and make necessary arrangements for the transfer of such officials Local Bodies will make appointments and will have full powers of disciplinary control over the staff while technical control will rest with the head of the department concerned In diciplinary matters, where officials are fined, or suspended, or dismissed, an appeal shall lie against the decision of the President to the Deputy Commissioner or the head of the department as the case may be and a second appeal against the decision of the Deputy Commissioner or the Head of the Department shall lie to the Government The system of obtaining loan of officials from other departments does not work well If chances of rising in service to Amildari &c , are afforded, a free flow of promotion will be ensured and the head clerk or some other qualified officials from the Municipality may be selected for Amildari, provided his

his work is reported to be satisfactory This free flow of promotion will ensure that officials under the local bodies will evince real interest in their work, in expectation of further preferment.

XXIV. It was finally resolved that ordinarily no official borne on the establishment of a Minor or Town Municipal Council or on the establishment of the Local Boards should be retained in the same Municipal or Local Board office for more than three years and that in no case should the period exceed five years and that a list of officials in Municipal service who have completed three years service should be sent periodically to the Deputy Commissioner of the District for effecting their transfer from one establishment to another, that as regards the officials of the District Board President's office drawing a pay of Rs 40 and upwards the list may be sent to the Government for transfer of officials from one District Board to another District Board

It was also resolved

XXV. That, with a view to prevent deterioration of the service for want of openings for promotion, such of the Local Fund Head Clerks as possess the prescribed qualifications be included in the list of candidates eligible for Amildari

Enlargement of Powers of Sanction of Original Civil Works and Repairs.

Mr. B. Srinivasa Iyengar of Anekal thought that there should be more decentralization of powers under this head

The President suggested that the question might with advantage be referred to a Committee which will examine the subject and make definite proposals

Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar added that the Local Fund Account Code and the Municipal Account Manual required revision to suit minor municipalities The Municipal Account Code should be amended in a manner so as to secure greater powers of sanction to District Boards

Mr. B. K. Garudachar of Bangalore also thought that the Municipal Account Code required revision in order to avoid defalcations. He was agreeable to the appointment of a Committee composed of Accounts Officers to suggest what amendments were called for in the Code.

Mr. Srinivasa Iyengar of Angul and Mr. Purushottam Anandagiri Gosai were also agreeable to the appointment of a Committee to go into the question and submit proposals

Mr. B.V. Ramaswami Chetty of Bangalore was for the existing powers of sanction of District Boards being increased and greater autonomy being allowed to them

XXVI

It was resolved that a Committee consisting of an Account officer, representatives of Municipalities including City Municipalities and Presidents of District Boards be appointed for the revision of the Municipal Account Code and the compilation of a Local Fund Accounts Code

Power to pass resolutions on questions connected with the General Administration.

The President invited the opinion of the Members on the point as to whether there should be a preliminary meeting of the Representative Assembly Members under the presidency of the Deputy Commissioners to discuss local subjects and if so whether the local subjects referred to the District Boards may not be disposed of in one of the following ways -

(i) in matters in which final orders can be passed by Government only, by referring those subjects to the Government with the opinion of the Board and

(ii) in matters which relate to departments under the control of the District Boards and which can be disposed of by the Heads of Departments concerned, by referring such subjects with the opinion of the Board to the Heads of Departments or Deputy Commissioners

Mr R Gopalasami Iyer of Bangalore suggested that the heads of departments should attend the preliminary meeting of the Members of the Representative Assembly

Assembly to be held in each District under the presidency of Deputy Commissioners to discuss local subjects, as that would facilitate their early disposal Direct communication in all these matters without interference of any intermediary authority was desirable There should be a miniature assembly at each District Head quarters

Mr. Purushottam Anandagiri Gosai of Mysore suggested the appointment of a standing Committee, in each District Board before whom all local subjects may be brought up and fully discussed. People would then realise that the subjects brought forward by their representatives were fully discussed and an attempt made to redress their grievances.

Mr. G Narasimhaiya, of Mysore stated that he had his own doubts about the propriety of referring local subjects for the disposal of District Boards. People were hitherto under the impression that their representations were receivin the attention of Government but now the position has changed and they are proposed to be transferred to District Boards This arrangement is not convenient and cannot be expected to work well It would therefore be better to allow local subjects to be brought forward for discussion at the Representative Assembly

Mr. D Venkatesiah of Kolar thought that local subjects might with advantage be discussed at the District Conferences which were held once a year

Mr Vema Reddy of Malur was not in favour of restrictions being imposed on bringing forward subjects to the notice of Government When local questions were discussed by the District Boards, the resolutions arrived at should be sent to Government

The President pointed out that only matters in which final orders would be passed by Government should be referred to Government with the opinion of the Board

Mr. S. Srikantiah of Bangalore thought it necessary to frame suitable rules indicating which subjects should be discussed by the District Boards, which should be brought forward before the Assembly, which should be discussed at the District Conferences and which should be sent to Government

Mr. T. Krishna Rao, of Mysore suggested that District Boards might dispose of subjects which were within their competence, and other subjects might be discussed and referred to Government with the opinion of the Board

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurthy Rao of Bangalore was of the opinion that local subjects should be discussed at Taluk Conferences and the resolutions must be sent to Government for information. These Taluk Conferences wer also attended by Members of the Representative Assembly Questions which were within the powers of disposal of th District Board may be considered by that body while those which are of provincial importance should be discussed and referred to Government with the opinion of the District Board It is not clear in what way these provincial questions should be disposed of as no resolu tions could be passed in such cases On local subjects resolutions should be passed and how effect is to be given to them is a matter that should be settled

It is a question to be decided whether Taluk Conferences should be continued or not If they are abolished, the local subjects will be placed before the respective boards and disposed of On the whole it is necessary that greater powers should be given to local ards to consider and pass resolutions on local subject to carry them into effect If such powers cannot

cannot be conceded the present method of allowing people to ventilate their grievances at the Representative Assembly might be continued.

XXVII. It was resolved that if it is decided by Government to entrust the disposal of local subjects to the District Boards and if a preliminary meeting of the Members of the Representative Assembly under the Presidency of the Deputy Commissioner is held for the selection of such subjects, and if such subjects are forwarded to the District Boards, the following procedure may be adopted.

(1) That in matters within the powers of disposal of the District Boards, they may be disposed by the Boards themselves.

(2) in matters in which final orders can be passed by Government only, refer those subjects to Government with the opinion of the Boards,

and (3) in matters which relate to Departments not under the control of the District Boards but which can be disposed of by the Heads of Departments concerned, refer such subjects with the opinion of the Boards to the Heads of Departments concerned,

That the same procedure be adopted in case of subjects brought up before the Boards by the Members or referred to them by any other body

Relation of Taluk & District Conferences with District and Taluk Boards

Mr. S. Srikantiah of Bangalore was for the continuance of these conferences as heretofore, and said that it should be settled whether such conferences should transact business or merely carry on propogandistic work

Mr C. Srinivasa Rao of Chickmagalur was also for the continuance of these conferences as they were in his opinion serving a useful purpose since questions relating to education, agriculture, industries &c , were discussed there and practical resolutions were passed on them.

Mr. Malali Venkataramaiya of Hassan was for making these Conferences serve as a sort of annual Durbars where every one should be invited to be present

Mr D. Venkatesaiya of Kolar suggested that the Presidents and Vice Presidents of District Boards should invariably be asked to be present at these Conferences

Mr. K. H. Ramaiya offg. Registrar of Co-operative Societies suggested that the Taluk Conferences would be attended with greater success if arrangements were made to feed the villagers who attended such Conferences He thought that it was necessary to maintain a list of gentlemen to be invited to the Conference in each Taluk so that no one may be overlooked. The Conference should be held for two days and subjects on Education, industries and Commerce &c , should be discussed and the work done by the members should be reported and read out at the Conference to serve as an incentive to other members to follow suit. The Resolutions passed at the Conferences should invariably be sent to the District Boards for action Timely notice of these conferences should be given If these conferences are to prove a success, they should be presided over by the Deputy Commissioner and the Amildar should take interest in arranging for for the Conferences

Mr. S. Srikantaiya thought that the co-operation of local authorities in the conduct of the conferences was necessary. The District Board should make a contribution towards the expenses of the Conference while the municipalities should also pay their quota. If such contribution is made the body making the contribution will take sufficient interest in the work of the Conference. It is also necessary that Government should make a contribution as a token of their interest in the Conference

Mr. Vema Reddy of Malur thought that the Government hould make a contribution to the extent of half the expenses, the balance being made up by grants from Municipalities. District Boards and ryots.

The opinion of the house was that the Government also should make a contribution towards the expenses of the Conferences.

As regards the constitution of the Conferences, various suggestions were put forward by the members as to who should preside over them Some thought that the Deputy Commissioner should preside over the Conferences, while others thought the Member in charge of the Local Self Government Port Folio might preside.

Mr. S. Hiriannaiya of Deputy Commissioner of Kolar pointed out that the present rule was that the Deputy Commissioner should preside over Taluk Conferences as far as possible Owing to various causes the Deputy Commissioner found it impossible to do so, and Sub Division officers were deputed to preside over some Taluk Conferences

Mr. D Venkatesaiya of Kolar thought that there should be no particular restriction about the president of the Conference It was sufficient if some one was selected in consultation with the president of the Board

Mr. R Gopalasami Iyer of Bangalore suggested that if the Conferences are to prove a success, action taken on subjects discussed at previous Conferences should invariably be read out at the Conferences so that the Members may have the satisfaction that they were not ignored

Mr. Davison, Live Stock Expert, stated that he had attended several Conferences and his experience of them was that interest in these institutions was declining

declining for various causes. The attendance also was very poor. Steps should be taken to see that popular interest in these Conferences was not lost, but kept alive so that really useful work may be done at these Conferences

XXVIII It was resolved that the District and Taluk Conferences be continued under the auspices of the District Board, and that the Government be requested to contribute a moiety of the cost of the Conferences, and

~~Resolved further~~ that the Deputy Commissioner should generally preside over the District Conference and that in respect of Taluk Conferences he may preside himself or depute some other officer to do so

Loval Boards and Economic Development work with Special Reference to Encouragement of Industries by Loans or Otherwise.

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao of Chikmagalur stated that cottage industries were being helped in the Kadur District There were weavers who were supplied with yarn and cloths were woven out of it. In the same way other handi-crafts were also encouraged as far as possible

Mr Usman Khan of Bangalore stated that the Bangalor District Board had done much to develop cottage industries by the grant of loans and in other ways. It had collected contributions from private individuals and advanced loans to several persons for bona-fide industrial purposes

Mr. P. G. D'Souza Director of Industries and Commerce explained that in some districts a programme of work was prepared and necessary funds were allotted, for the encouragement of industries In Channapatna, a sum of Rs. 10,000 was advanced for the purchase of a lathe machine In Tumkur a loan was advanced for the manufacture of Slate pencils In Shimoga, a sum of Rs 3,000 was advanced for industrial purposes on the recommendation of the

the District Board. In Arsikere, on the recommendation of the Hassan District Board, a loan was given for the purchase of a rice mill. If the District Boards were prepared to finance industrial projects, the Department of Industires and Commerce would be glad to investigate and report as to their practicability. A sum of Rs. 10,000 was given for the development of minor industries in the State. The District Boards do not take any initiative in the development of industries and the department of industries has to do all the work.

Mr. N. Rama Rao, Superintendent of Sericulture, advocated the desirability of local bodies interesting themselves in encouraging Sericultural industry which was now neglected in most parts of the State This was a poor man's industry and he required to be financed to enable him to take it up The industry was highly remunerative but funds were required in the initial stage and these should be provided to those who were engaged in the industry There was no inclination on the part of the District Boards to grant loans for this purpose. The funds allotted by Government were also insufficient There were vast facilities for the development of sericultural industry as a subsidiary occupation and want of funds stood in the way of such development If the District and Taluk Boards took some interest and devoted a portion of their funds to the cultivation of mulberry, the silk industry was bound to thrive very well The Mulberry crop may be raised 3 or 4 times during a year and no industry is so profitable as this It was therefore essential that those interested in the Sericultural industry should be enabled by means of loans to develop the same Liberal contributions from Municipal and local boards will help to a great extent to encourage the industry It was hoped that the Local bodies would try to help this industry

Mr T Krishna Rao of Mysore thought that Municipalities also should make a contribution towards the development of industries

XXIX. ~~That~~ It was resolved thus That to deal with the Educational, Industrial and Agricultural problems connected with the Economic Conference the Local Bodies may have a single Committee in lieu of three separate Committees, that the Local Boards and Municipal Regulations be suitably amended so as to empower local bodies to grant loans for the encouragement of local arts and industries, subject to such limitations and safe-guards as the Government may deem fit to impose.

Relation of local bodies to Malnad Improvement Committees and the abolition of the latter

The President stated that the malnad improvement Committees had been suspended and their work had been transferred to the District Boards and he invited the opinion of the members as to whether the existence of a separate Committee was necessary

Mr. C. Srinivasa Rao of Chickmagalur thought that it was absolutely necessary to continue the Malnad Improvement Committees If these committees were abolished, the energy and money that had already been spent in this behalf would be a waste

Mr. H. Venkataramiah of Tumkur pointed out that the District Boards have to find funds for agricultural, educational and industrial works and if this Committee also was transferred to them, the position of the District Boards would be very difficult to find funds for this work also More hospitals were needed for the Malnad and improvement of communications had to be cared for It was very difficult for the Malnad people to find good prices for their crops on account of want of good roads and communications It was very desirable that the Malnad Improvement Committees should be revived

Mr. Malali Venkataramiah of Saklespur also pleaded for the revival of Malnad Improvement Committees He pointed out that ever since the work of malnad improvement was transferre to the District Board, it was not being properly cared for A majority of the members of the

the District Board were from the maidan parts and only one or two from the malnad parts, the consequence being that malnad questions were never taken up and even if taken up they did not receive the same interest at the hands of all the members.

Mr. Narasimha Iyengar of Sagar also pleaded for the continuance of separate committees for Malnad improvement

Mr. B. Venkoba Rao, Deputy Commissioner of the Bangalore District agreed with Mr. Malali Venkataramiah in what he said about the disposal of subjects relating to Malnad Improvement in the District Boards A majority of the members of the District Boards in the Malnad Districts were members from maidan parts and the malnad questions were to a great degree ignored as the maidan members formed a majority. In case only the malnad members were to meet, there would be no quorum It was therefore necessary, if funds could be found to revive malnad improvement committees

In bringing the discussions to a close, the President emphasised the well known fact that the malnad was very backward in all respects and it was well known also that the climatic conditions of the Malnad were altogether different from those of the maidan parts The diseases that were prevalent there were peculiar to the Malnad Even diseases of cattle in those parts were peculiar to the malnad The economic conditions prevailing there were also peculiar and were different from those of the maidan parts It was the primary duty of the Government to safeguard the interests of the backward Districts in the State. The indigenous population of the Malnad were dying in large numbers but the people that have come from South Canara and other parts were much better and in a healthier condition and were better able to bear the vigo of the climate But the condition of the indigenous population

of the malnad is such that they are not able to bear the vigour of the climate and especially during the cold seasons a great many of them succumbed to pneumonia and other fatal diseases. Influenza plays a great havoc amongst them It is hoped that those who do not belong to the malnad will not deny the attention which should be paid to the improvement of the malnad. Their condition was simply deplorable, more especially the condition of the holeyars. The labour problem also was becoming acute

It is a pity there were two tendencies developing in the State, which should be checked The one was that the difference the people were making between urban and rural areas which was a great mistake Life and society depend upon both the urban and rural areas. The one is as much necessary for the welfare of the country as the other Without the urban area the rural area cannot exist Both are interdependant upon each other. The knowledge and enlightenment of rural areas are to be spread and promulgamated into urban areas It was not right to make a distinction between the rural and urban areas, when the State as a whole is concerned Sometimes, representations are made to the effect that the malnad population should not be encouraged at the expense of the maidan population This is not right Both should be considered as limbs of the same body As a great Persian Poet has said, if one limb is aching the other limbs will have no rest

With these observations, the question as to whether the malnad improvement committees should be revived was put to vote and it was unanimously passed by the members

It was accordingly resolved that Government be requested to revive the Maland Improvement Committees.

Municipalities - (i) Converting minor municipalities into town municipalities or village Panchayets

Mr. Malali Venkataramaiya of Saklespur stated that many of the taluk headquarters were at present minor municipalities and it was not desirable to convert them into village panchayets

The President pointed out that if the benefits of District board administration were to be derived, it was desirable that these should be made village panchayets

Mr Vema Reddy of Malur thought that as it was not a very long time since these minor municipalities were formed, it was not desirable to convert them into village panchayets.

Mr. Natesa Mudaliar of French Rocks suggested that such of them as had not an adequate income and as were not in a position to manage all the work expected of them might with advantage be converted into village panchayets and those that had sufficient funds might remain as Minor municipalities

Mr Karnick Krishnamurthy Rao of Bangalore thought that it would be better if option was given to these bodies either to remain as municipalities or to be converted into village panchayets.

The President said the sense of the house was that the existing minor municipalities should continue, and that if a minor municipality wanted to disestablish itself and xx xxxxx form a village panchayet, it might apply for the same.

It was then resolved that ~~such of the~~ minor municipalities ~~as desire their conversion~~ may be given the option of being converted into T own municipalities or village panchayets ~~may apply to Government in the matter~~

(2) Principle ~~of~~ for the levy of tolls etc.

The President explained that both the municipality and the district board had been levying tolls and sometimes one particular cart had to pay toll two or three times in a single journey. The principle on which toll was imposed was that the revenue derived out of this source should be utilised for maintenance of the road. That being so, most of the municipalities were imposing the toll while the district board whose responsibility was great was deprived of its revenue

Mr. Venkataramayya of Chamarajnagar stated that the Municipalities had a right to increase their revenue, by the levy of tolls and the District Boards ought not to object to the municipalities imposing the toll

Mr Purushottam Anandagiri Gosai of Mysore thought that that municipalities were prefectly right in levying tolls as the money got from the levy of tolls was to be used for the maintenance of the roads. The District Board spends about 70 to 200 rupees for one mile while the Municipalities have to spend nearly two thousand rupees for one mile of road. The carts that come into a Municipality use almost every road in the municipality to find sale for their goods, while the District Board road is used ~~only~~ only once in a journey

The President enquired why the revenue from toll should not be divided between the municipality and the District Board as it the practice in Madras

Mr. B Srinivasa Iyengar of Anekal was agreeable to a portion of the revenue of the municipality from toll being given to the District Board For instance, road metal for the Bangalore ~~City~~ Municipality was brought from Anekal side and on account of this, heavy estimates would have to be sanctioned specially for these roads , as their condition grew worse on account of the metal that is being

being constantly brought to the Municipality at Bangalore

Mr. Lakshmikantabhatta of Kalale, Nanjangud Taluk pointed out that on the road from Mysore to Chamarajanagar toll was collected in more than two places, which was a great hardship upon the poor people.

Mr. Oosman Khan of Bangalore stated that about Rs 35,000 was collected by the Bangalore Municipality in the form of tolls. The District Board also had to maintain hospitals, roads, etc., and it was only right that a portion of revenue from this source should be paid to the District Board.

Another Member was of opinion that it was not fair to ask the municipalities to give a portion of the toll to th District Boards

As some of the members proposed that there should be no tolls at all, Votes were taken upon all the points with the following result

(1) Those who are in favour of entirely abolishing toll 21

(2) Those who are in favour of imposing tolls 35

(3) Those who were in favour of dividing the revenue fro toll between the Municipalities and District Boards

Votes For 36 Against 27

XXXII It was accordingly resolved as follows -

"That while the system of establishing tolls at the entrance to municipalities on District Fund Roads is to be deprecated, the revenue from Municipal toll when levied, should be shared between the District Board and the Municipal Councils and that the Government should fix the shares in some equitable proportion

(3) Exemption of Municipalities from payment of penalty to Government for Agriculture lands used for non agricultural purposes

Mr C. Hayavadana Rao of Bangalore stated that though what he wished to say primarily applied to the municipalities of Bangalore and Mysore, the other municipalities will also derive benefit if the same principle was extended to them gradually. The existing rule was in his opinion an obstruction to the expansion of cities It was necessary that the cities should expand as economic development increases. If cities are to improve Government will have to see to the removal of this penalty The troubles that are experienced for building houses in the cities are many and it is not expected that the municipalty can give up this most important work If industrial expansion was desired, the policy of Government should be changed. If this was done, there would be much scope for expansion and Improvement

Mr S. Srikantiah of Bangalore was against the proposal to exempt municipalities from the payment of penalty to Government when agricultural lands were used for a non-agricultural purpose. It was usual for the Bangalore and Mysore municipalities to acquire Government lands and to sell them at abnormal rates as building sites It was necessary that the Municipalities should be made to pay to Government a portion of the profits that they derive from the sale of these Government lands as building sites The profits that the municipalities derive are from the people and there is every justification in asking them to remit a portion of the profits to the State Funds

Mr. Selva Pillai of Gorur, Hassan Taluk, pointed out that it was usual in such cases for the municipalities to acquire the lands at the rate of Rs 100 or 150 from the ryot and sell them at the rate of about 5,000 a site The profits thus derived should neither go to the municipality not to Government but should go to the ryot to whom the lands belonged

Mr. C. Narasimhiah of Mysore said that he knew of a few instances where an acre of land acquired, needed one thousand rupees or more before it could be converted into a building site But in the majority of cases, the municipality had been making enormous profits at the expense of the ryot It was therefore reasonable to fix a moderat value for the sites and then dispose of them to such people who are really in need of them for building houses

Mr. Malali Venkataramiah of Saklespur complained that the lands of the ryot situated very near the cities of Bangalore and Mysore fetched high prices because of the improvement that the City Municipalities were making, and those lands would not have fetched so much had it not been for the municipalities. Under the circumstances, it was not in his opinion reasonable to ask the municipality to share its profits between it and the Government or the ryot.

Mr. Purushottam Anandagiri Gosai of Mysore argued that since it was for the convenience of the people that municipality acquired lands and not for themselves, and since large sums have to be spent before they can be converted into house building sites, it was not reasonable to demand a penalty from the municipality for the lands acquired.

Mr Hampiah of Sidlaghatta supported the above view and added that the municipality was a body created by Government and it had been working for the welfare of the people on behalf of Government and it was therefore reasonable that the penalty, should be excused

The majority of the members were in favour of excusi the penalty in such cases for municipalities and for su mitting a recommendation to Government accordingly (The Revenue Commissioner dissenting) It was therefo resolved as follows -

XXXIII

"~~Whereas~~ it is the duty of the state to provide facilities for the housing of the poor and to provide suitable sites for building purposes to remove congestion in towns and as the municipal Councils have been performing the functions which were being performed by the State, ~~this Conference recommends to Government that~~ municipalities and Local bodies may be exempted from payment of penalty to Government for the conversion of agricultural lands for house building purposes"

F I N A N C E

Mohatarfa -

Opinions were invited on the desirability of increasing the rates of Mohatarfa

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One member pointed out that the levy of mohatarfa was not in vogue in the Bombay and Madras Presidencies and there was therefore no reason why it should be raised instead of being abolished

Mr S Srikantiah of Bangalore thought that as the number of houses in some parts of the Malnad was very small and it was not desirable to increase the rate of mohatarfa in those parts, but there can be no objection to increase the same in the maidan parts

Mr Purushottam Anandagiri Gosai thought that is was not desirable to increase the mohatarfa throughout the State, uniformaly, but the same may be increased in places where there are village panchayets

Mr K Chandy, Revenue Commissioner thought that [illegible] of the members were not subjected to mohatarfa and it [illegible] desirable that the question of increasing mohatarfa should be discussed with men who were paying that tax

Mr. G. Selva Pillai of Gorur, Hassan District pointed out that at present the ryot had been made to pay many cesses and it was not desirable to add to the burden The man who gets an income of Rs. 10 has to pay a local cess, an education cess, a District Board cess and many other cesses; and in addition, to increase the mohatarfa was not reasonable.

Votes were taken as to the desirability of increasing the mohatarfa and the result was as follows -

For 26 Against. 22.

XXXIV It was accordingly resolved that as the present Mohatarfa rates are low, they may be suitably enhanced

Profession tax.

The members were unanimous that the levy of profession tax should not be made compulsory and that the shop tax be revived

XXXV It was accordingly resolved that the Municipal Regulation be suitably amended so as to give option to Municipalities to levy shop tax in lieu of profession tax

Pilgrim Tax

XXXVI. The house was against the levy of this tax

It was accordingly resolved that the levy of pilgrim tax is objectionable on various grounds and should not be introduced

Octroi or terminal tax

Mr S Srikantiah of Bangalore stated that the reasons given by the Government of India were sufficient to indicate that the imposition of terminal tax was not reasonabl and it should be abolished

Mr. Karni K Krishnamurthy Rao was in favour of the abolition of octori.

The President explained that terminal tax applied only to places having a railway connection and it cannot therefore replace Octori which was a source of revenue in the case of most of the Municipalities which had no railway/ Connection.

(1) Votes were taken and the result was as follows -

These who were in favour of the retention of Octori

For 50 Against

(2) These who were in favour of terminal tax in addition to Octroi.
All against

XXXVII. It was accordingly resolved that it is not desirable to abolish the levy of octroi duties

Tax on Arms and Hides

Those who were in favour of a tax on Arms and Hides

For 33 Against 9

XXXVIII It was resolved that a tax on arms and hides be levied and that necessary provision for the same be made in the Municipal and Local Boards Regulations

Surcharge duty on Excise

For 40 Against Nil

XXXIX. It was resolved that necessary provision be made in the Municipal Regulation for the levy of surcharge duties on Excise

Sheep Tax.

After a short discussion, some of the members were not in favour of sheep tax but they insisted upon imposing a tax on goats which were destroying plantations and avenue trees

Votes For 35

Against. 18

It was also proposed that a tax should be levied on pigs which were a nuisance in the surroundings of villages and were damaging the crops of poor people

Votes.	For	50
	Against	12

x L

It was therefore resolved ~~that This Conference recommends~~ that provision be made for the levy of a tax on goats and ~~or~~ pigs ~~instead of~~ but not on sheep.

Division of Jatra Revenue between District Boards and the Muzrai Department

Mr. Karnick Krishna Murthy Rao of Bangalore was of opinion that as it was for the benefit of the temple that the fee was levied, the District Boards had no right to claim a share out of its revenue.

The President pointed out that there was no legal right for the temple authorities to impose this tax and they should therefore have no objection to give up a share out of the revenue to the District Board the latter undertaking all sanitary arrangements

Mr Vema Reddy of Malur thought that as the District Boards made all the sanitary arrangements, it was reasonable for the temples to pay at least one third of their revenue out of this source to the District Boards

Mr S. Srikantiah of Bangalore expressed the view that if nothing more could be given, at least the authorities of the temple should be made to pay the actual expenses incurred by the Taluk and District Boards for the arrangements in connection with the Jatra.

Mr Purushottam Anandagiri Gosai of Mysore ~~suggested~~ agreed with the previous speaker and stated that the District or Taluk Board concerned should be given the expenditure incurred during the jatras and the balance remaining might be given over to the Muzrai institution

Mr. S Hiriannaiya, Deputy Commissioner, of the Kolar District, thought it reasonable to make the Muzrai institutions pay the expenses incurred by the Taluk or District Board, in making arrangements during jatra

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurthy Rao of Bangalore stated that the temple authorities could have no objection to share their revenue if the District Boards were able to maintain those institutions. It was unreasonable for the District Boards to demand that a portion of the revenue derived during the jatras should be given to them without any sort of responsibility on their part in the matter of the maintenance of the temple in question

The question was put to vote

Those who were in favour of the District Board having a share in the Jatra revenue

Votes	For	31
	Against	22

One third to be given to the District Boards -

Votes .	For	30
	Against	Nil

Mr. Venkatesiah of Hassan pointed out that in may places fairs and shows were held, the funds realised went to the DistrictBoards The people that came to these shows, visited the temples also that were located there Under the circumstances, the District Board should be made to pay a share out of such revenue

The proposal was put to vote and was carried

XLI

It was therefore resolved that ~~this Conference recommend that~~ one third of the net realizations after deducting Sanitary and other charges from Jatras held in connection with Muzrai institutions, may be given to District Boards and the remaining two thirds credited to the funds of the temple further recommends that in the case of cattle shows etc organised under the auspices of Local Boards 1/3 of the realizations after deducting all the charges may be given over to the local temple or temples as the District Board thinks fit.

Special Cesses

The President pointed out that, while the Municipalitie had power under the Municipal Regulation to levy special cesses for augmenting their resources whenever they had a necessity therefor, there was no such enabling provision in the Local Boards Regulation. It was therefore necessary to amend the Local Boards Regulation in this respect.

The proposal was agreed to by the house, it was

XLII. That in order to introduce an element of elasticity and expansiveness in the revenues of the District Boards, the District Boards be empowered to levy cesses like Municipalities subject to such conditions and limitations as the Government may impose and that the Local Boards Regulation be amended accordingly

Control of Primary Education by Local Bodies and Enactment of a separate Education Act

One of the Members suggested that the power of making appointments in connection with primary schools must rest with those who contributed towards their expenses and managed them It was not right to deny this right to the District Board The District Board contributed and it must have the power of appointing teachers in those schools which are under their control Unless the District Board has this power, it will be a nonentity in the eyes of the public The list of eligible candidates for appointment may be made by the Inspector General of Education as usual but the power to appoint must rest with the District Board

Mr S Hiriannaiya, Deputy Commissioner of Kolar District thought that the list might be furnished by the Inspector General of Education but the choice should perh rest with the President of the District Board

Mr C.S. Balasundaram Iyer, Inspector General of Education, explained that there can be no objection to the

the administrative control of primary schools being given to the District Board, provided that the educational efficiency is maintained. The Education Department will have to retain its usual inspections and impose upon the schools all the conditions that they impose upon Government schools for their efficiency, provided that the District Boards are prepared to pay at least half the cost of the maintenance of the school.

Mr. G. Gopalasami Iyer, stated that the Bangalore Municipality had agreed to contribute one third of the cost and it was reasonable to fix the same amount with regard to District Boards also

Mr S Srikantiah of Bangalore thought it desirable to leave the question to the several District Boards before it was decided here Unless the resources of the District Boards are made clear it is rather difficult to agree to this, seeing the demands that are already on the District Boards, in maintaining hospitals and other charges that the are expected to give

Mr. C Narasimhaiya of Mysore was also of the same opinion that the District Board should be made aware of all the resources that it can command, before it can agree to the present proposal

XLIII It was finally resolved that the District Boards be entrusted with the control of primary education and required to contribute one third of the cost

Education cess and amending the Regulation

Mr C. Narasimhaiya of Mysore advocated the desirability of amending the Local Boards Regulation so as to permit of their levying an Education Cess.

XLV. It was agreed that the Regulation may be amended enabling Taluk Boards to levy an education cess. It was therefore resolved that the--------

Local Boards Regulation be suitably amended so as to empower the Taluk Boards to levy education cess subject to such conditions and limitations as the Government may deem fit to impose

Contributions for Services

The question of fixing the proportion of contribution to be paid for the various services was decided to be left to the discretion of the District Boards. It was accordingly resolved

XLIV. Resolved that no uniform rule can be laid down regarding the contribution payable by the District Boards towards the cost of several services and that the question should be decided by the District Board concerned as it arises

Establishment of Village Panchayets and Municipalities in Inam Villages and Jaghirs

Mr. Vema Reddy of Malur thought it desirable to apply to Inam Villages the same rules that were applicable to Government villages At present the people that lived in Inam Villages were subjected to many troubles

Mr S Hiriannaiya Deputy Commissioner of Kolar District, also thought that the condition of people in inam villages was deplorable and it was desirable to consider the question of establishing Municipalities or Panchayets in such villages

Mr. Karnick Krishnamurthy Rao of Bangalore said that there could be no objection to such a course if the cesses collected in the inam villages were ear-marked for the improvement of these villages and kept in the custody of the District Board

After some further discussion it was decided that the question might be referred for consideration to the Committee proposed for the formation of village Panchayets It was resolved

XLVI That the question of the establishment of village Panchayets and Municipalities in Inam Villages and Jaghirs be referred to the Committee proposed to be appointed in connection with the establishment of panchayets

Election of Presidents of Municipal Councils by Plebiscite instead of by Municipal Councils

. Karnick Krishnamurthy Rao of Bangalore pointed out that some times the election of a president was left to a very few people say, about 15. The President will have to work to suit the whims and fancies of the fifteen Coun cillors and cannot displease them. It was desirable that the rate payers should elect the president instead.

Mr. Purushottam Anandagiri Gosai of Mysore agreed with the previous speaker and thought that the president should be elected by the rate payers.

Mr. H. Rangaswamiengar of Mysore thought that the power of appointing a president must rest with the Government or the Municipal Councils might be permitted to elect their own presidents

Votes were then taken with the following results

Direct election of Presidents of City Municipalities

For 35 Against 5

Direct election of Presidents of town & Minor Municipal Councils A very large majority

The same principle to be extended to District Boards

For 31 Against 11

do do Taluk Boards

For 31. Against 11

As regards the formation of village panchayets it was pointed out that all the elders of a village, i e , one elderly person from each house should be selected If this was done the party feelings that exist now in many villages would disappear

Votes For. 36 Against Nil

It was resolved

XLVII That the non-official Presidents of City Municipalities, Town Municipalities and Minor Municipalities be elected by the general body of voters instead of by the Municipal Councillors,

that non-official Presidents of District and Taluk Boards be also elected by the general body of voters in stead of by the Members of the Local Bodies

XLVIII That the Village Panchayets be so constituted as to consist of the Yejamans or elders of the Village and if possible the head of each family.

All the resolutions passed so far were taken as read The President made the folloring remarks in concluding the proceedings of the Conference -

Gentlemen,

I am sure I am voicing the feelings of this House when I say that we have had a successful session of the Conference has been adversely commented upon in som quarters It is not necessary for me to deal with these comments at any length as our friend Dewan Bahadur Mr Puttanna Chetty has in his usual felicitous manner answered them in his speech. But as the President of this Conference I feel that a word of explanation is necessary from me You have been from the agenda and the discussions that have taken place that the Government had a number of important subjects concerning the administration of Local Bodies before them upon which they could not have passed satisfactory orders without consulting well-informed opinion thereon The Government could not have awaited indefinite till any other Conference was held and even then there was no guarantee that the question upon which the Government wanted advice would have been taken up and disussed by that Conference. It was not the intention of the Government to supplant any other private or semi-official conference It is open to the local bodies in their corporate capacity or to individual members to hold their own conferences and submit their views to the Government In Madras after the Government Conference of 1920 several private Conferences have been and are being held and I hope that this Conferences will be a fore-runner of similar Conferences in our State

As regards the proceedings of the Conference I am glad to say that the members have shown their usual zeal and interest in discussing them Some of the subjects were keenly debated and all the points were fully thresh out. The Members showed a thorough grasp of the subject

subject and a good knowledge of the details of the administration. Their speeches were very informing and I must acknowledge that I gathered from them a lot of useful information about the practical difficulties in the way of the successful working of the Scheme of Local Self Government and about the many flaws and drawbacks that exist in our rules and regulations. I shall take the earliest opportunity to remedy these defects.

Ever since the passing of the Government Order on Local Self Government there has been considerable awakening of the civic consciousness of the people There is very keen competition for the membership of Municipal Councils and Taluk and District Boards and very keen interest is being taken in Municipal and Local Boards Administration As the Member in charge of the Local Self Government Portfolio, I have come in direct contact with the work of municipal councils and their non-official Presidents and Vice Presidents, and I must bear testimony to the fact that the work of the Municipal Councils has considerably improved under their guidance The late Mr Subbiah was a bright example of what a non-official President could be and I take this opportunity to pay my quota of tribute to his memory He brought an energy and freshness to his work that was simply admirable and his notes of inspection would have done credit to the most experienced Civil Servant who had grown grey in the service of the Government He had bestowed his heart upon the resuscitation of the Village Panchayet and within the short time he was in charge of the President's Office he had succeeded in creating a stir in the village life

The resolutions that you have passed now if accepted by the Government will constitute a fresh advance upon the reforms inaugurated in 1918 and I have no doubt that you will acquit yourselves under the new conditions in such a way as to become entitled to the grant of a further instalment concessions at an e

Of the important measures which you have deliberated upon and upon which you have come to what I consider satisfactory decisions are the reconstitution and readjustment of the functions of Local Boards and Village Panchayets. You are perfectly aware of the fact that the success of the whole scheme of Local Self Government depends upon the successful working of the District Boards--- the initiative they take and the enthusiasm and energy they infuse into the lower limbs of their constitutional body. The Taluk Board should be made a really useful body since you have resolved to continue it By the resolutions we have passed we are perpectuating the system of official hierarchy to which we have become accustomed by our association with the Revenue and Judicial systems But the true conception of a District Board administration should be that of a big city with a large number of suburbs attached to it having separate self-governing institutions of their own and the District Board as a federal Council guiding them and co-ordinating their functions and exercising control over the services common to all. The District Board must try to possess all the powers which a big city council has and function in the same way Greater attention will I am sure be paid in future towards the development of panchayets, and education and improvement of agriculture and live stock will occupy the front place in their programme of work

I am glad to find that you showed no disposition whatever to grab at power, but as practical men of business you have consented to the exercise of some of the powers which you undoubtedly possess being delegated to Heads of Departments in order to ensure efficiency and contentment of services You seem to be fully alive to the value of discipline and I am glad to find that you do not discard outside check and supervision. These are very healthy signs and augur well for the future of the Local Self Government Scheme

GENTLEMEN, I wish you good-speed in the discharge of the onerous duties that will be imposed upon you and I must thank you for the help you have given me in the discharge of my duties as President and the respect you have shown to the Chair and the willing obedience ~~xxxx~~ you have yielded to its rulings

Mr. C. Narasimhaiya of Mysore proposed a vote of thanks to the President ~~xxxxxxx~~ for the able manner in which he had conducted the deliberations of the Conference and the patient hearing given to the Members in the course of the discussions and expressed the hope that, as the Conference was presided over by the Member in charge of the Local Self Government, portfolio, the resolutions would be sympathetically viewed by Government He added that both himself as well as the other members of the Conference associated themselves with the President in all that had fallen from him in regard to the late Mr. M Subbiah whose premature death every one deplored sincerely

Mr Malali Venkataramaiya of Sakhespur also thanked the President for the courtesy extended to the members during the course of discussions.

The Conference was dissolved at 7.45 P M. after three cheers to His Highness proposed by Mr. Karnick Krishnamurthy Rao and responded to by every one present.